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INSIDE

BUSINESS



Minimum-wage increase proposals are being pushed in at least 30 states.

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ASIA



Anti-government protesters swarm dozens of polling stations in Thailand.

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LIFE & STYLE



Daft Punk and Pharrell Williams dominate the Grammy Awards.

► PAGE 20

CUC base rate hike OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The three-member Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission initially agreed yesterday to the proposed increase in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s electric base rates. This is expected to take effect after the issuance of a formal CPUC decision next week.



This means CUC, upon the effective date of the commission's order, will be authorized to increase its electric base rates to produce \$2.8 million on an annualized basis. This increase would be accomplished with the creation of a \$0.21 per kWh "infrastructure surcharge" that the commission also approved

See CUC on Page 4

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission are seen discussing some issues during yesterday's rate hearing where it initially approved CUC's proposed electric base rate and other proposals. From left are commission chair Joseph Guerrero, members Dave Guerrero, and Oscar Quitugua.

Lawmakers oppose Pagan militarization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and other House members are pre-filing today a joint resolution asking Gov. Eloy S. Inos—who is set to meet with the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii—to

» CNMI, Guam governors meet with US Pacific Command in Hawaii

"oppose any and all proposed military use of Pagan and oppose any increased military activities in the Northern Islands." It is set to become the CNMI Legislature's unified voice against the militarization of Pagan.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4



Thursday market vendors oppose new fee in petition

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Garapan Thursday Market vendors circulated a formal petition against the land fee that the Department of Public Lands wants to charge them, saying it will be the "most expensive" on Saipan, considering the land acreage and number of hours public land is used.

See VENDORS on Page 4

\$7.25 an hour minimum wage in 180 days pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) pre-filed yesterday a bill that would increase "immediately"—or 180 days after it becomes law—the local minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour to match the federal level.

See WAGE on Page 4

RAINY VACATION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A tourist couple walks in the rain in the tourist district of Garapan on a rainy Monday afternoon. The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management said a shear line remains just northwest of the Marianas, generating very large swells. A small craft advisory and high surf warning are in effect.

CNMI, DOJ seek termination of consent decree. PAGE 2
Man allegedly beats up taxi driver during robbery. PAGE 5



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Local

AFTER ALMOST 15 YEARS, CNMI FULFILLS CONSENT DECREE OBLIGATIONS

CNMI and DOJ seek termination of consent decree

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI and U.S. governments filed yesterday a joint motion that seeks to terminate the consent decree the Commonwealth forged with the U.S. Department of Justice almost 15

years ago to address problematic conditions at the local prison.

Assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, counsel for the CNMI government, and DOJ's trial attorney Jeffrey R. Murray informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the Commonwealth has fulfilled

its obligations under the consent decree.

Sablan and Murray said the parties agree that the CNMI "is in compliance with the requirements of the consent decree."

Sablan and Murray said that an evidentiary hearing is not necessary because the U.S. govern-

ment does not oppose the termination of the consent decree.

The federal court entered in February 1999 the consent decree that the CNMI and DOJ forged following the U.S. government's lawsuit on behalf of inmates over the deplorable conditions of the local prison.

The CNMI was forced to build the new prison in Susupe under the consent decree. Construction of the new prison be-

gan in 2002 with an initial cost of about \$17 million that later ballooned to \$20.9 million. The new prison opened in 2008.

In their joint motion to terminate, Sablan and Murray agreed that some of the major achievements include the construction of the new adult detention facility on Saipan; construction of a new Juvenile Detention Unit on Saipan; renovation of the Rota and Tinian detention facilities;

development and implementation of policies and procedures, including classification system for inmates; and implementation of medical screening and provision of medical care for inmates; implementation of fire safety plans and apparatuses; and increase of staffing at the Department of Corrections and Juvenile Detention Unit to ensure adequate supervision to minimize harm to inmates.

More info sought on proposed \$20 standby fee for hotels

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Seemingly dissatisfied with the information at hand, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission was reluctant yesterday to act on a proposed standby charge for large customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The commission later put off the matter until its April regulatory meeting.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero, during yesterday's rate hearing, specifically cited his concern over the "benchmarks" adopted by the CUC in coming up with the standby charge proposal.

The proposed standby charge costs \$20 kW/a month and, once approved, will apply to customers having their own generation exceeding 200 kW; are interconnected to CUC grid;

and who purchase less than 10 percent of power from CUC.

CUC earlier disclosed that eight large hotels will be affected once the proposal is approved.

The proposed \$20 kW/monthly charge is projected to earn CUC an extra \$180,000 every month, or \$2.2 million per year.

At yesterday's deliberation, CPUC commissioner Dave Guerrero asked how the \$20 was reached as the recommended amount for such a fee. It was revealed by CUC officials that the figure was patterned after what is being charged in Guam.

For CPUC chair Guerrero, the commission is "simply not comfortable" using the Guam fee as the benchmark for the CNMI, which has its own environment uniqueness. He said it

is not even known if the amount is affordable for affected customers once it is approved.

"We're having some questions than answers for now," said Guerrero, adding CUC has to submit more information about the subject for the commission's review.

The standby charge does not apply to customers with facilities that are used exclusively for emergency services.

It was explained that customers can avoid paying this charge by disconnecting from CUC's grid. Those who disconnect and then reconnect will incur a penalty charge.

By implementing this standby charge, CUC seeks to ensure that its small customers do not have to pay for capacity that is used only periodically by large customers.

Plea deal for ex-cop facing 2 criminal cases rejected

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Finding it too lenient, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday a proposed global plea agreement between the CNMI government and former police sergeant Vicente Olopai Tagabuel, who is facing two criminal charges.

Camacho said the proposed deal doesn't meet the court's standards and the CNMI community.

The agreement recommended imprisonment of two years—a fraction of the possible maximum sentence for the crimes at issue, Camacho said.

The judge noted that at the time of the commission of at least one of the offenses, Tagabuel was a police sergeant with the Department of Public Safety, and that both offenses involved the use of a dangerous weapon.

According to court records, the Office of the Attorney General and Tagabuel filed a global plea agreement on Jan. 29, 2013. That same day, Tagabuel pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon in the 2012 case and disturbing the peace in a 2003 case.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja then entered judgment against Tagabuel but put off his

sentencing and whether to accept or reject the plea deal until after the completion of a presentencing investigation report.

The sentencing was originally scheduled for April 16, 2013, but that hearing was vacated and rescheduled several times.

On Jan. 14, 2014, Naraja reassigned the matter to Camacho.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said that under the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure that governs plea agreement, the court "may accept or reject the agreement, or may defer its decision as to the acceptance or rejection until there has been opportunity to consider the presentence report."

Camacho said in this case, the decision concerning the acceptance of the plea agreement was deferred.

Under the global plea deal, the OAG recommends two years in prison without the possibility of parole.

Defense attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Tagabuel, recommends a sentence of two years of house arrest.

In a previous interview, Dotts stated that in the latest case, Tagabuel pounded the top of his car with a knife because he wanted his son to return the vehicle.

"It's a dispute between a father

and son," the lawyer pointed out.

Dotts said the 2003 case was when Tagabuel drove his car and smashed into a picnic table and other items at a house.

"He lost his job and lost his pension," said Dotts, adding that Tagabuel worked for 23 years in different capacities at the Department of Public Safety and at the Department of Corrections.

Court records show that the Office of the Attorney General in the 2003 case charged Tagabuel with assault with a dangerous weapon, assault, three counts of disturbing the peace, and two counts of criminal mischief for allegedly threatening Andrew Rapoulug with a machete on Dec. 29, 2002.

In a 2011 criminal case, the OAG charged the defendant with utility theft in the amount of \$196.70. He pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine, \$196.70 in restitution and a reconnection fee of \$93.37 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. There was no jail term.

In May 2012, Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman issued two bench warrants against Tagabuel—one in 2003 for not appearing at a review hearing in a small claim matter and one in 2004 for not appearing at a status conference in the 2003 criminal case.



COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, left, and other DPS officers and personnel stand at attention during the playing of the U.S. and Commonwealth anthems during the first ever "Commissioner's Address to the General Assembly" held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Jan. 22, 2014.

DR. WALKER FILES REQUEST FOR CHC PRIVILEGE:

Corporation seeks more requirements

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A former physician of the Commonwealth Health Center, Dr. Grant Walker, has submitted a "privilege request" to the public hospital but a decision in the matter has been stalled as the physician still needs to turn in additional documents.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., through interim CEO Esther Muna, had responded to the doctor's request with information on how such a privilege can be obtained.

It was learned that for a privilege request to be approved, a number of requirements must be turned in to the corporation's credentials committee, which reviews all documents.

One of the most important requirements, it was learned, is proof or evidence of the applicant's financial responsibility—a mandatory requirement for medical and staff members of the corporation. This can be any insurance coverage or other proof of financial capability of the applicant that is satisfactory to the corporation's governing board.

Saipan Tribune was also told that "membership is a requirement to practice at CHC" and is applicable to all attending doctors and physician assistants, especially for doctors not employed by the CHCC.

In the case of Walker, who wants to return and serve either at the public hospital or in the private sector, this "evidence of

financial responsibility" must be provided to CHCC.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Walker but he has yet to respond as of press time.

CHCC hired Walker from Idaho to serve as the hospital's orthopedic surgeon for 30 days. But prior to his contract's expiration, CHC terminated Walker's medical privileges due to a host of issues that included alleged unprofessional misconduct and insubordination, among others.

Medical privilege allows a physician to use the treatment facilities of the public hospital for their surgeries and operation. Losing this privilege, a doctor—whether in public or private clinics—cannot operate or provide services to clients.

Group seeks to help fight poverty in Micronesia

Utwe Seattle Organization, dba USO Association, is a non-profit organization registered in King County, Washington, that has immediate access to resources and capable of providing the social services and economic supports that the people of Micronesia desperately need. USO Association has the advantage

of its location, the strategic plan, and the leadership to provide help to the low-income population and support to the FSM government in fighting poverty.

USO Association is seeking financial support from the private and public sectors to launch its services and start helping the low-income population in Mi-

cronesia. For more information or to support our cause, email jbbenjamin-usoa@live.com.

The USO Association is registered with Washington State's Charities Program as required by law and additional information is available by calling 800-332-4483 or visiting www.sos.wa.gov/charities. (PR)

Fr. Forbes: Chamorro documentary needs to be done now

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Fr. Eric Forbes said the driving force behind putting his "I Am Chamorro" lecture into DVD form is to preserve Chamorro culture for future generations order for them to understand where they come from.

The Capuchin priest, who used to live on Saipan in the early '90s, attended last

week's fundraiser at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan that successfully raised \$9,300 for the DVD project.

Forbes said time is of the essence in making the "I Am Chamorro" DVD.

"It needs to be done now because we're saying goodbye to a lot of elderly people who have that knowledge and the proficiency of the language who lived through the war

and even before the war and they're dying off."

Forbes said the documentary would try to get the points of view of all Chamorros in all corners of the world and not only those in the Marianas.

"We want the stories of all the Chamorros wherever they come from, whatever island they come from, or if they live in the U.S. mainland. It's a treasure to give to our children and our grandchildren so they would know their history, their heritage, and have pride in themselves. 'I Am Chamorro' is a story of the Chamorro people of all the islands in the Marianas."

He shared that it took him years of research and travels to Europe and Asia to create his lecture and his work is not done

yet since the DVD version will need updated information.

"I'm visiting and interviewing many of the elderly as possible. It's also a historical documentary. I went to many archives in Europe, the United States, and in the Philippines, wherever I can find archives relating to the Marianas. It's about history, culture, and language."

He said the organization that initiated the DVD project, Manhita Chamorro, is looking to raise \$150,000 to pay for the production and distribution of the documentary.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, who organized the fundraiser last Jan. 22, thanked Forbes for all his work. By preserving Forbes' work on DVD current and future genera-

tions of Chamorros would learn something about where they come from, she added.

"It's everything about the Chamorros that you could find. He went to Spain. He went to Germany. He interviewed the *man'amko* on Saipan, on Tinian, and on Rota, and on Guam to get as much information as he can. It's going to be a movie and it will be an hour and a half in length when it's done. It will be available and we will give it to all the libraries. He already has all the materials so it's just a

matter of compiling and getting a professional crew."

An "I Am Chamorro" trailer was recently completed, professionally done by a group of film artists from Hollywood.

178 avail of UFO assistance for E-passport appointment

A total of 178 availed of the help of the United Filipino Organization for their E-passport appointments last Sunday at the Don Pedro Restaurant in Garapan.

The E-passport appointment is being conducted in advance of the Philippine Consulate General's mobile consular outreach on Feb. 11 to 13 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

"Even though it was raining hard last Sunday, a lot of applicants still showed up that day. We are happy that the organization was able to assist 151 applicants on that day alone from 8:30am to 3pm. But aside from that we had 27 applicants assisted before Sunday," said UFO president Annamae Adaza.

She said that people now understand how important having an E-passport appointment is.

"They don't have to fall in line and they don't have to go there as early as 3am just to renew their passport. Strictly no walk-in will be entertained this time and it's also good for all of us. With the appointment system, we know what time we will show up. Let's say, if your appointment is 9am, then just be there by 8:45am. As simple as that."

As of Sunday night, the

Philippine Consulate General in Guam will no longer be accepting applicants for appointment.

"Once you email you will receive an automatic reply notice informing that the quota of the first 360 applicants is already full. It means no more applicants will be entertained. With the appointment system this time we are expecting to have smooth services but then again I know some will still take chances as walk-in. A lot of people are asking why only 360 applicants, why can't [they] accept more than that?"

She, however, said that the consulate in Guam just couldn't accommodate more since they only have one machine. "It's too risky to overload a machine to avoid a breakdown."

Adaza also reminded those who applied last Sunday to wait for the first week of February for their appointment schedule. They could also pick their applications and copy of passport on the day of their appointment at the UFO table.

For those who have computer access, check the Facebook of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam or UFO. They call also call her after office hours at 483-5237 or UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021. (Mark Rabago)

Rotaract open house at NMC

The Rotary Club of Saipan will host an open house for prospective Rotaract members at the Northern Marianas College on Feb. 26 and 27.

The open house will allow NMC students to get informed about Rotaract and ask questions of Rotary members about the youth group.

The planned creation of a Rotaract Club in the CNMI's only community college comes a few years after the local Rotary Club helped create an Interact Club at the Marianas High School.

The Rotaract Club is for college students; the Interact Club is for high school students.

Rotaract originally began as a Rotary International youth program in 1968 at Charlotte North Rotary Club in Charlotte, North Carolina.

It has since then grown into a major Rotary-sponsored organization of over 9,539 clubs around the world and 219,397 members.

Rotaract is a service, leadership, and community service organization for young men and women between the ages 18-30. Rotaract focuses on the development of young adults as leaders in their communities and workplaces.

The Rotary Club of Saipan will also be organizing an open house for prospective Rotary members on Jan. 28 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The open house, however, is an invitation-only event. It also does not offer automatic membership to those invited and prospective membership still need to be sponsored into the organization. (Mark Rabago)

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LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

Inos left for Hawaii yesterday, a day later than originally scheduled.

The U.S. Pacific Command invited Inos and Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo to Hawaii for a briefing about military plans in the region. Accompanying Inos are press secretary Angel Demapan and counsel Wesley Bogdan.

Lawmakers described the proposed Pagan use as “basically a military war game plan that demands continuous use and occupation of the entire island of Pagan for warfare functional areas.”

They said these are not limited to amphibious warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mini warfare, strike warfare, air warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and naval special warfare, among others.

“The CNMI has legitimate concerns that certain proposed military operations on Pagan will adversely affect the socioeconomic and other cultural concerns, including but not limited to geo-tourism, geothermal power generation, and planned resettlement,” the nine-page draft joint resolution partly reads.

The pre-filing also comes days after the lawmakers’ meeting with the Marianas Forces Pacific led by executive director Craig Whelden about changes made to the proposed alternatives related to the use of Tinian and Pagan for live-fire training.

A few days later, lawmakers also met with visiting Federal Aviation Administration officials. The House of Representa-

tives has tentatively set a Friday session, wherein the joint resolution is expected to be adopted and sent to the CNMI Senate.

This also comes days after the governor said he will not support artillery ranges on Pagan and Tinian for safety reasons, adding that Pagan alone is an “uphill battle.” It was the governor’s strongest statement to date on the military plans for both islands.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), one of the co-sponsors, said yesterday “there needs to be proper planning and a balance between development and preservation of our valuable resources.”

“Pagan and all the Northern Islands are the few resources that we have for our people. It is in the best interest that we protect those islands for our children and people,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Once adopted by the CNMI Legislature, copies of the joint resolution will be transmitted to the offices of President Barack Obama, the CNMI governor, members of the U.S. Congress including Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and the mayors of Rota, Tinian and Aguigan, Saipan, and the islands north of Saipan.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), also a co-sponsor and chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, said yesterday he’s been opposed to the militarization of Pagan since the onset.

“I opposed it back then and I still oppose it today for safety and environmental concerns, among other things,” Tebuteb said.

National defense

The speaker and co-sponsors said in the draft resolution that the CNMI already contributes to the national defense by being a valuable strategic military defense asset in the Pacific region and by leasing its scarce real property, including but not limited to, over two-thirds of Tinian, valued real property in Tanapag, and Farallon de Medinilla for military training, maneuvers and live-fire bombings.

Given the significant land, ocean, and airspace that the military has already taken into custody and control for national defense, the 18th CNMI Legislature “opposes the military’s proposed Pagan plan for combined-unit live fire trainings and maneuvers.”

Lawmakers said the wholesale militarization proposed for Pagan will permanently enjoin any meaningful opportunity for resettlement and sustainable community-building redevelopment.

They said Pagan’s planned militarization is incompatible with the Pagan Island Eco-Tourism Master Plan in the Marianas Visitors Authority’s five-year master plan, and the Northern Marianas College’s agricultural master plan.

The House Natural Resources Committee, meanwhile, is recommending passage of a bill that would help pave the way for Pagan homesteading.

Geothermal, pozzolan

Lawmakers said Pagan’s proposed military use would adversely affect the 50- to 120-megawatt geothermal reservoir that exists on Pagan

“which could support the near-term development and resettlement” of the island.

They said geothermal energy from Pagan could be transported to Saipan via submarine cable. They said as a hydrogen economy develops, the CNMI could also become an energy exporter that would no longer be dependent on expensive imported fossil fuels.

House members added that the proposed military use of Pagan would threaten any efforts to use the pozzolan deposits on Pagan, estimated at 200 million metric tons.

‘Untold destruction’

Lawmakers said Pagan’s militarization will result in untold destruction, contamination, pollution, and harm to the health and wellbeing of the people in the Marianas archipelago.

They said these include mass destruction of cultural resources, critical habitats, and life webs in the Marianas chain “which can never be undone.”

They also spoke of local, regional, national, and international advocates that have publicly rallied against the “impending occupation, destruction and contamination of Pagan by military live firings and training activities.” These include Save Pagan Island, Sierra Club, Roots Action and Care2 Make a Difference.

24 cents per sqm of FDM

A 1971 Use and Occupancy Agreement was executed by the U.S. and Trust Territory governments for annual rent of \$20,600.

This has provided the U.S.

every Thursday night offers tourists and residents a variety of dishes, fresh fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, as well as live entertainment.

Earlier, vendors said the land fee is an added cost considering that sales have not been as good as they used to and is being assessed without proper consultation.

The land fee is in the temporary authorization that DPL granted DCCA. When the task of overseeing the Garapan Street Market was transferred last year to one of DCCA’s divisions—the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture—executive director Angel Hocog tried to implement the land fee to comply with the temporary authorization from DPL.

without a commensurate salary increase to the federal minimum wage level “is nothing more than a selfish way to ensure cheap labor is available at the expense, once again, of our local residents and to the detriment of the entire non-local and local labor force.”

Tebuteb pre-filed HB 18-173 weeks after House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) introduced a bill raising the CNMI local minimum wage—still pegged at \$3.05 an hour—“to match the federal minimum wage applicable to the CNMI.”

military, up until the present time, unimpeded access, occupancy and unrestricted use of 83,000 square meters of FDM for live firing and bombing.

Lawmakers said this amounts to about “24 cents per square meter.”

They said over 40 years later, scarce CNMI land is once again being eyed for manned and unmanned military live firing, bombing and related military training and maneuvers by land, sea and air that extends far beyond FDM.

3 times the size of California

The speaker and co-sponsors also said the proposed Pagan military roadmap covers not just the entire island of Pagan but also its coastlines and surrounding waters and exclusive airspace, including airspace restrictions extending to Anatahan, Sarigan and as far up north as Pajaros.

CUC

From Page 1

for implementation.

According to the commission, the infrastructure surcharge will expire on Jan. 1, 2015, unless extended by CPUC.

CUC officials led by executive director Alan Fletcher and chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed during deliberation yesterday that also factored in the \$2.8 million revenue requirement in the electric base rate is an allocation to pay for CUC’s remaining obligation to Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., the former independent operator of Power Plant 4.

In its initial decision yesterday, CPUC required CUC to undertake a study of its electric distribution infrastructure and develop a list of required capital projects that could be funded by continuing the surcharge after PMIC is paid off.

CUC is required to pay PMIC \$341,000 a month until December 2014.

After yesterday’s hearing, Fletcher expressed appreciation for the CPUC’s consideration.

“We thank CPUC because they put in hours to work on this. It’s never popular to raise rates. It’s tough to go to the public, but we feel the money [CUC asked for] is necessary in order to operate the utility agency efficiently to meet our obligations for service as well as stipulated order requirements,” Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune*.

Yesterday’s deliberation lasted more than four hours, during which the CPUC was presented with additional facts and information pertaining to the proposed base rate hike, along with other CUC proposals.

According to CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero, hearing examiner Harry Boertzel is now drafting what the commission initially recommended in yesterday’s hearing, for adoption at their next meeting.

In affixing the commission’s

The lawmakers said the proposed Department of Defense Mariana Island Range Complex is equivalent to three times the size of the state of California and retains 70,000 nautical miles of airspace for training, equivalent to the size of the state of Washington.

They said when the Record of Decision on the public scoping held in 2013 for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing environmental impact statement is finalized and implemented, the MITT will “nearly double” the ocean space that has been already taken and controlled by the military—from 501,873 nautical miles to 984,469 square nautical miles.

This makes the occupation and use by the military training range in the Mariana archipelago equal to the combined sizes of the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana and New Mexico, they said.

initial approval to a number of recommendations, Guerrero pointed out the need to properly inform the public and CUC customers of any changes that may appear in their billing.

Refund

Besides the \$2.8 million base rate increase, CPUC also determined yesterday that CUC should be authorized to institute a 36-month residential refund of \$0.023 kWh, which would be funded by a reciprocal increase in commercial rates.

CUC officials and representatives revealed that the refund mechanism aims to provide rebates to residential customers totaling \$1.13 million—the same amount that will be raised from CUC’s commercial customers. This refund is recommended for implementation on March 1, 2017.

Non-rate fees

CUC initially proposed 20 non-rate fees for the electric utility division, but concerns were expressed on about 10 of these charges. Those 10 are now deferred to the commission’s spring session.

Among the non-rate fees that the CPUC approved was the increase in non-sufficient funds fee from \$25 to \$40; increase in new service fee for meter change out from \$60 to \$95; the imposition of a \$90 inspection fee; an increase in the meter test fee for single phase from \$30 to \$75; meter test fee for three phase, \$110; a disconnection notice fee of \$15; \$60 fee for reconnection at meter; and lowedding the disconnection fee at meter from \$60 to \$45.

For water and wastewater divisions, approved were a lab service charge of \$60; increase the wastewater tipping fee from \$25 to \$80; imposition of \$100 as fee for backflow device inspection; FOG installation inspection fee, \$170; FOG biannual inspection fee, \$60; and FOG remediation fee, \$110; among others.

VENDORS

From Page 1

The land fee is equal to 1 percent of each vendor’s gross sales.

The petition, addressed to DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, seeks DPL’s help in saving what they described as a popular business activity among tourists and residents.

DPL earlier said it could either waive or reduce the land fee if the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs requests and justifies the need to do so.

The petitioning vendors said many of them have been participating at the Thursday market from the original site at Paseo de Marianas. The Thursday

market was moved to the Garapan Fishing Base when the sewer system at Coral Street underwent repairs.

The vendors said they used to pay only \$40 every Thursday for participating at the street market. Last year, they started paying \$50. They said they have been paying fees regardless of the state of the economy.

“Our group is not asking any incentives or waiver of taxes. We are all here both during the good and bad times,” they said.

They added that they were shocked to learn last year of a 1 percent land fee that they’re being asked to pay.

But DPL said the fee had already been reduced from 3 percent to 1 percent.

Still, the vendors said the land

fee is too much.

“If you will add our monthly fee, which is roughly over \$200 and compared to the land acreage that we are using and the 64 hours we are occupying, it will be the most expensive rental here on Saipan,” they said, adding that they have also been paying business gross receipts tax “so we are not getting any freebies.”

They said they want to be treated “fairly” and “equitably” like the vendors at the Sabalu Market, Tuesday Market, participation at the Christmas in the Marianas, and Taste of the Marianas.

“We would welcome you comparing our fees with these other activities and we are soliciting your fairness in treating us similarly,” they said.

The Garapan Street Market

ing to work for whatever salary is offered.

The CNMI awaits a U.S. Labor decision to extend the transitional CW program for five years. Without such an extension, the CNMI loses immediate access to over 10,000 foreign skilled and professional foreign workers after Dec. 31, 2014.

“After ensuring access to foreign labor for an additional five years, the least we could do is ensure that each and every worker earns no less than \$7.25 an hour,” Tebuteb said.

He also said an extension

minimum wage to match the U.S. minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour is “the right thing to do.”

He said a real living wage—one genuinely capable of supporting both the earner and his or her family—is needed in the CNMI to improve the economy and the wellbeing of the labor force.

Tebuteb, author of House Bill 18-173, said if a national immigration reform bill pending in U.S. Congress is signed into law with a CNMI-specific provision intact, then CNMI employers would be guaranteed access to employees, many of them will-

WAGE

From Page 1

Despite a 2007 U.S. law mandating the CNMI to increase its minimum wage by 50 cents every year until it reaches the federal wage floor of \$7.25 an hour, nothing stops the CNMI from increasing its own local minimum wage. Under that U.S. law, the CNMI’s current \$5.55 an hour minimum wage will increase to \$6.05 an hour on Sept. 30.

Tebuteb said raising the CNMI

CUC still charging PSS high rate for water, wastewater

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the passage of a law that lowered the water and wastewater rates of public schools, the Public School System claims it is still being charged the higher rates up to now.

PSS acting internal comptroller George Palican appealed to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission yesterday for its help in the matter.

Public Law 18-19, which became law on Sept. 24, 2013, reclassified the water and wastewater rates of public schools from "government" to "commercial" in a bid to save the system some money.

Palican shared yesterday how PSS worked hard to push this necessary legislation through, only to be disappointed that it is not being adhered to.

"The predicament we're facing now: CUC continues to bill PSS at government rate even after the Sept. 24, 2013, enactment of the law. And because of this, PSS has no choice but to file a month-

ly blanket dispute with CUC," Palican told CPUC members and CUC officials at yesterday's commission hearing.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher explained that CUC cannot just make changes to its current rates and structure without the CPUC's approval. He revealed that, since the law's passage, CUC had sought direction from the commission on the implementation of P.L. 18-19.

"We're still waiting for that direction from the commission," he said during yesterday's public comment period.

CPUC chair Joseph Guerrero assured PSS officials yesterday that the commission will look into the matter and will notify parties when action is determined.

Palican said that PSS has been getting excessive billings for water and wastewater each month since October 2013. For that month alone, charges in excess of what is mandated by P.L. 18-19 reached \$117,000. This amount, he said, represents 89 percent of the actual billing.

He said the system is now

preparing to dispute the November and December billings.

Each month, he said, PSS records a minimum of 24 disputes for its water and wastewater bills.

"If this will continue, PSS projects that dispute would most likely exceed \$2 million through fiscal year 2014," disclosed Palican.

He said this excess billing is of great concern to PSS because it is a potential direct liability of the system.

He also shared the compli-

cated process of going through the monthly dispute with CUC, citing the numerous documents that PSS has to provide with every dispute filing it submits.

Man allegedly beats up taxi driver during robbery

A man allegedly beat up and robbed a taxi driver before fleeing with the latter's car in Gualo Rai Friday night.

The suspect, Vincent James Palacios Deleon Guerrero, 22, was arrested after the taxi driver jumped out of the car and ran into Shell Highway Express where he called for police assistance.

Deleon Guerrero was detained for robbery, theft of vehicle, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He is being

kept on a \$100,000 cash bail.

Police detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that the Department of Public Safety Central Office received a call on Friday at 9:12pm about a theft incident at Shell Express in Gualo Rai.

The victim, a Chinese national, told the responding officer that he had picked up Deleon Guerrero at the Chalan Kiya Mobil Station earlier that night. Deleon Guerrero asked to be dropped off at J's Restaurant

in Gualo Rai.

As they were heading north on Middle Road, the suspect opened the car's glove compartment and started checking inside. When the taxi driver asked what he was doing, the suspect allegedly told him to give him his money or he would kill him.

Deleon Guerrero then allegedly slapped the victim and grabbed his throat. The victim gave his wallet from his pocket. After taking the money, the suspect gave back the wallet to

the victim and demanded for more money.

The driver then drove into the Shell Highway Express, ran out from the car, and went inside the store where he called the police.

Deleon Guerrero took the car and sped north.

Later that night, police arrested Deleon Guerrero in Chalan Kiya.

The police report did not state if the victim was injured or whether the vehicle was recovered. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Sobriety checkpoints in February

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Feb. 2 and 3, 2014.

On Feb. 2, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minantchom Atdao, on the southbound lane, from 4:30pm to 6:15pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya by the Waterloo on the westbound lane, from 7pm to 8:15pm.

The third setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to the St. Michael's Office on the southbound lane, from 9:15pm to 10:30pm.

On Feb. 3, 2014, the first set-

up will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane, from 1:30pm to 2:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau in front of IT&E on the southbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

The third setup will be on Beach Road, Susupe in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building on the northbound lane, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818.

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HOUSE FOR RENT

- San Jose House:** 5-bedroom and 2.5-bathroom in San Jose. Good Location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: \$800.00/mo- furnished. Asking: \$650.00/mo- unfurnished

HOUSE FOR RENT

- Kagman:** 3-bedroom and 2-bathroom in Kagman bordering Laolao Bay golf course. Private Residence. Internal courtyard with swimming pool. Solar water heater, G4s Security Alarm & Service, 2,000 square meters property and furnished. Asking: \$1,000.00/mo

MIDDLE ROAD PROPERTY

- Middle Road:** Commercial Frontage Road location in middle road CMG intersection, 7,000 square meters. Asking: \$400,000.00

HOUSE LOTS FOR SALE

- Capitol Hill:** Ocean view house lot location in Capitol Hill, 1,000 square meters. Asking: \$30,000.00

GUALO RAI PROPERTY

- Gualo Rai:** Vacant Land for sale 4,000 square meters. Asking: \$50,000.00

VACANT LAND IN TINIAN

- Tinian:** Vacant Land in Tinian for sale. Lot 114 T14: 4,185 square meters. Asking: \$7,500.00. Lot 114 T05: 25,000 square meters. Asking: \$45,000.00. Lot 102 T21: 3,643 square meters. Asking: \$7,300.00. Lot 118 T04: 1,190 square meters. Asking: \$2,500.00

SADOG TASI PROPERTY

- Sadog Tasi:** Vacant Land for sale 40,280 square meters. Asking: \$30.00 per square meter

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE

- Horizon Building:** Commercial Building for sale location in Garapan, 4,000 square feet with warehouse. Asking: \$400,000.00

ROOMS FOR RENT

- San Jose Rooms:** Rooms for rent in San Jose. Good Location near Dolphin Wholesale and San Jose Mart. Asking: \$100.00 to \$120.00/mo (depending on room size) plus power



Alexander Realty

Alexander Building, Beach Road San Jose, Saipan MP 96950
For inquiries please contact Alexander Realty at:
234-5117 or e-mail: roy.alexander@saipan.com
Website: www.realtysaipan.com

Adm. Locklear: Rebalance to Asia-Pacific region on track

By CHERYL PELLERIN
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (NNS)—America’s rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region is on track, and U.S. Pacific Command is staying on top of the growing sophistication of today’s weapon systems in what PACOM commander Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III calls “the most militarized region in the world.”

Locklear briefed the press at the Pentagon Saturday morning on PACOM’s progress in leading the Defense Department’s rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific and the United States’ relative dominance in the region with such systems heading into the 21st century.

“The rapid technological advancement of warfare capabilities and the proliferation of these capabilities across the globe will challenge us in the future,” Locklear said.

“We must also ensure that we invest in the proper mix of defensive and offensive capabilities for our ships,” he added, “...and that the [ships’] capabilities are both lethal and dominant.”

The security push in the region comes with the growth of economies and because of the increasing defense requirements of Asia-Pacific nations.

“They’re buying...21st-century

weapons. They’re not the same weapon systems we dealt with 30 years ago...so it stands to reason that our relative dominance in those technologies and weapons systems will have diminished over time,” the admiral said.

“That’s not something to be afraid of,” he added. “It’s just something to be pragmatic about.”

Discussing country-by-country highlights of ongoing operations, Locklear began with PACOM’s contribution to the multinational Operation Damayan, established to help the Philippine government with the deadly aftermath of November’s Super Typhoon Haiyan.

“There was a quick transition in that operation to the armed forces of the Philippines and ultimately to the government of the Philippines to be able to continue that recovery,” Locklear said, adding that the operation “demonstrates the value of working together on [humanitarian assistance/disaster response]-related training and initiatives so we can respond more quickly and more effectively” during natural disasters.

Locklear also traveled to Thailand and Vietnam.

In Thailand, which is experiencing political unrest, “it’s important to highlight that the Thai military has responded favorably in support of their govern-

ment, a democracy that’s working through these challenges,” Locklear noted.

“In my time talking with the government and the military leadership, they highlighted their efforts to maintain peaceful democratic processes and we wish them all the best,” he added.

Locklear’s recent trip to Vietnam was the first visit by a PACOM commander since last July, when Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang and President Barack Obama met at the White House for the first bilateral meeting.

Afterward they announced the establishment of a new Comprehensive Partnership to increase trade and commerce, military-to-military cooperation, multilateral work on issues like disaster relief, and scientific and educational exchanges.

“We’re working closely with the Vietnamese military and we’re looking for opportunities to expand and grow our partnerships, especially when it comes to humanitarian [and] disaster relief operations,” Locklear said, adding that the second PACOM-sponsored disaster management center opened in Vietnam while he was there.

In answer to a question about the December South China Sea incident in which the U.S. Navy guided-missile ship *Cowpens* took evasive action to avoid colliding with Chinese navy ship *Liaoning*, Locklear described an evolving environment.

“As we look at the growing number of navies that are operating and the growing number of security concerns in this region, we have to expect militaries are going to have to encounter and operate around each other,” he said, including the U.S. and Chinese navies.

“This highlights to the [People’s Liberation Army] and the

U.S. military,” the admiral added, “that we have to do better at being able to communicate with each other in a way that allows us [avoid] a miscalculation that won’t be productive in the security environment.”

Locklear said PACOM has had defense officials in Beijing for the past two days.

“We have a mechanism in place with the Chinese where we meet routinely to talk about maritime incidents and how we interact with each other,” the admiral said, adding that he hopes “we will...continue to learn to interact and progress in the professional manner that we exhibit toward each other. This is the best way forward.”

Ultimately, Locklear said, for mutual security, China and its military must be regional leaders and coexist in its part of the world with U.S. allies and with U.S. and allied militaries.

“They’re going to have to work hard to get through some of the...territorial disputes they’re having with their neighbors. We don’t take sides on the territorial disputes,” the admiral said, “but we do expect them to be done peacefully.”

In the end, he added, U.S. forces in the Pacific area of responsibility will operate freely in international waters and international airspace.

“That’s the bottom line,” Locklear stated. “We will operate there and we’ll operate professionally and we’ll operate peacefully. That’s the message to all the militaries that operate in that region.”

In South Asia, India has a critical role in security for a peaceful Indian Ocean, the admiral said, and the United States welcomes that role.

The January 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance directs Locklear “to develop a long-term strategic relationship with

India and we’re moving in that direction,” he said.

A cornerstone of that long-term key relationship is to determine how the countries will partner in areas of similar interests and capabilities, the admiral said, and how to make this happen despite radically different procurement systems.

“The Indian government and military recognize their procurement system is different than our[s]...and we’re working through how to streamline those differences,” Locklear explained, “...so we can move forward with some of the key technologies and key capabilities we want to develop.”

Elsewhere in the region, Japan and the U.S. soon will have a defense review to determine elements such as force laydown that will describe the future alliance, the admiral said, and the nations seem to be moving in a positive direction on the Futenma Replacement Facility in Okinawa.

In the land domain, he added, DOD is pursuing an initiative with its Australian partners involving the Marine Corps and the Air Force, and PACOM is inspecting the shared infrastructure in each alliance country to ensure it is set for the 21st century.

In response to a question about North Korea and its threatened use of weapons of mass destruction, the admiral said that nation’s continued nuclearization and pursuit of missile technologies under the control of an unpredictable young leader make North Korea a “potentially very dangerous” place.

“In the end,” Locklear said, “we must demand a total denuclearization of North Korea. It’s in the interest of not only South Korea and the United States but of all the people in the region. And now it’s in the best interests of everybody in the world.”

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marpi landfill hours on Jan. 29

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014, the Marpi landfill will be opened from 7:30am to 11:30pm. It will be closed from 12pm to 3pm due to the disposal of unexploded explosive ordnance to be conducted by the Department of Public Safety. For your safety, stay away from the landfill and its surrounding areas. *(PR)*

Quota reached for ePassport appointments

Due to the limited capacity of its data capturing machine, the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, is limited to serving only 360 applicants for the appointment system for ePassport application for Saipan on Feb. 11-13, 2014. As of yesterday, there are already 360 applicants. Thus the consulate will not be able to accept additional applications. Other applicants are encouraged to avail of the next consular mobile service on Saipan.

For questions or clarifications regarding the mobile consular outreach, call the Consulate General at its toll free number (670) 682-2222. *(PR)*

MHS to host special PTSA meeting

All Marianas High School parents and teachers are invited to a special meeting of the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association this Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6:30pm at the Pacific Islands Club Pavilion. There will be a presentation on campus improvements and vote on changes to the MHS PTA bylaws. Call 237-3206 or 664-3800 to confirm your attendance. *(MHS)*

Marpi closed off on Wednesday

The Department of Public Safety will be blocking off the northern part of Saipan, from Marpi north, on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014, from about 12pm to 3pm, to dispose of a significant collection of unexploded ordnance that has been collected by the department’s Explosive Response Team.

All visitors to these popular areas of the island are being urged to make arrangements to visit either in the morning before the 12pm deadline or after the operation has completed at 3pm.

Anyone with questions can contact the Explosives Response Team Operational Supervisor, Sgt. Anthony I. Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. *(DPS)*

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COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, January 31, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor of the Captain George Fleming Building, at the Port of Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (December 13, 2013)

II. CORRESPONDENCES

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee

3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Personnel Matter: Employment Contract

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Taxi Tours Request
2. Status of Freedom Air
3. Status of FAS Moving
4. Status of Grant of Public Domain
5. Status of Harbor Rules updates
6. Status of abandoned vessel at South Seaplane Ramp
7. Navigational versus Visual Aids for small planes

VII. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION/Legal Counsel Report

X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

January 24, 2014

POI Aviation invites qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Aircraft Service Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years experience working on aircraft interior and exterior cleaning.

Assistant Manager, Passenger Service (1)
Associate's degree with 6 years of progressive experience in airline passenger service. Minimum 3 years experience in passenger service supervisory capacity.

Lead Cargo Agent (2)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience as a cargo handler.

Manager, Aircraft Maintenance & GSE (1)
Associate's degree in Aviation Maintenance Engineering with 10 years of progressive work experience as a licensed A&P Technician and 2 years work experience as auto and diesel mechanic. Must possess a current U.S. FAA A&P license.

Manager, Ramp & Flight Operations (1)
Associate's degree with 8 years progressive airline ramp operations and flight dispatch experience. Minimum 3 years work experience in ramp operations supervisory capacity. Must possess a current U.S. FAA license as Aircraft Dispatcher.

Ramp Agent (1)
High school diploma or its equivalent with 2 years work experience in the airline industry in relations to ramp cargo loading and unloading operations.

Senior Load Planning Specialist (1)
Associate's degree with 4 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2014

Applications for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Allen I. Palacios, Petitioner,) FCD-DI) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 13-0625
Vs.)
Carmelita T. Palacios, Respondent.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502739 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

DATED, this 26th day of December, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Chilean wines are star of the night at WPS fundraiser

The 4th Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser for Whispering Palms School was held Friday night, Jan. 17, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, featuring Calina Chilean wines distributed by Pacific Trading Co.

The poolside event also included an assortment of hors d'oeuvres, music provided by Project Blue, and a silent auction where guests were able to bid on beautiful artwork and a wide range of items, such as sumptuous dinners at Coffee & Jazz, parasailing with BSea Marine Sports, fitness class memberships at Pacific Wellness, overnight stays at Hyatt, PIC, and Marianas Resort, and many other items that were generously donated for the auction.

A large number of the guests participated in the heads/tails game and the lucky winner won a Sunday brunch for two at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The evening's event was supported by Pacific Trading Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aces Tennis Academy, American Nails, Baldyga Group, BRABU Pharmacy, Bridge Capitol, LLC, Bsea Marine Sports, Coffee Room N 106, Dell Benson Photography, Delta

Management Group – Shell Puerto Rico, East *West, Elitza Stoilova, Gold's Gym, Greg Elliott Artwork, IT&E, Java Bakery, LOVF - Sophie Chin, Marianas Resort and Spa, Mike Ronesia, Monika's Furniture, Nadia Richards, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Subsea Saipan, Pacific Wellness

Center, Project Blue, Regal Theaters, Rhea Backe - Handful Arts, Roshi's, Saipan Computer Services, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Saipan Tennis Academy, Saipan Yoga Coop, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Kanoa Resort, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, The Shack, White Coconut Computer, and

Wireless Ridge Landscaping.

"Whispering Palms School greatly appreciates the community's overwhelming support. This event was a success thanks to the sponsors, those that bought tickets, our parent volunteers, and the staff and management at the Hyatt Re-

gency and Pacific Trading Co.," said Whispering Palms School principal Rob Epley. "[We] look forward to hosting the 5th Annual Wine Tasting next January."

Whispering Palms School, located on Upper Navy Hill, is a non-profit school educating children from 1st to 8th grade. The

mission of Whispering Palms School is to provide a safe, nurturing, challenging, and successful learning environment. The school strives to instill a love for learning and to provide students with the tools they need to be successful and compassionate members of the community. (WPS)



NEW LAWS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos shares a light moment with lawmakers and other officials after he signed three local laws and one public law on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon last week. Among the new laws include establishing the exit of the U.S. Post Office as an official customs point of entry.

HAIDE V. EUGENIO

McC Campbell sailors share experiences, laughs with Saipan middle school

By CHRIS CAVAGNARO
MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
3RD CLASS

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *McC Campbell* conducted a community service project at the Adm. Herbert G. Hopwood Jr. High School during a port visit to Saipan on Jan. 24.

COMSERVs provide sailors the opportunity to give back to local communities and to learn

about the host nation's culture on a personal level.

"I really enjoyed visiting the school and talking with the children," said Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) Nelson Mamotos, a COMSERV coordinator aboard *McC Campbell*. "It's always rewarding when you participate in an event like this and see the impact you can have by simply taking time out of your day to meet with the local community."

Sailors spent the day speaking with students and faculty, telling

stories and sharing experiences about life in the U.S. Navy.

"It means a lot to the staff and students for sailors to come down to our school and share with us what it's like to be in the Navy," said Jacklyn Echon, a social studies teacher at the school. "The students were very excited to hear about this trip and it definitely brightened up their day."

Sailors were given drawings by the students to show their appreciation for the visit.

"The highlight of the day was

seeing how happy the children were to have us here," said Mamotos. "They asked some

good questions, and the cartoon drawings they gave us were a nice touch. It was a re-

ally great experience."

McC Campbell is on patrol in the 7th Fleet area of operations supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Guam man sentenced to 55 months in prison for drug charges

Trifon Pineda, age 44, was sentenced on Jan. 16, 2014, in the District Court of Guam to 55 months' imprisonment for two charges related to possession of

crystal methamphetamine. After his release, he will be deported.

Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood also ordered Pineda to pay a \$100 assessment fee.

Pineda and his co-defendant, Les Vitug, were arrested on a complaint on March 20, 2011. On March 23, 2011, the grand jury indicted the defendants for conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine and attempted possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

On March 6, 2011, postal inspectors seized a package addressed from Les Vitug in California to Joan Vitug in Guam. Agents searched the package pursuant to a federal search warrant and recovered 27 grams of ice that was 99 percent pure.

Les Vitug, who was sentenced on March 27, 2012, to 48 months, claimed the package and was detained by law enforcement agents. Vitug told agents he was picking up the

package for his *pare*, Pineda. Vitug called Pineda (with agents listening) to tell him the package was in. Pineda went to Vitug's house where he was arrested. Pineda admitted that the package was his and it was sent to him by his brother, Pablito Pineda, who has also been indicted and has pleaded guilty. Pablito Pineda is awaiting sentencing.


Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, gave credit for the investigation to the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Postal Service Inspectors, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, task force agents from the Superior Court of Guam's Probation Office assigned to the DEA, Guam Customs and Quarantine, and the Guam Police Department. The case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clyde Lemons. (USAO)

Woman sentenced for bank misapplication

Bernice Rivera was sentenced on Jan. 21, 2014, by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood in the District Court of Guam, to time served and two years of supervised release for the offense of bank misapplication.


Rivera was a bank employee at Coast 360 Federal Credit Union and misapplied funds from a customer account in the amount of \$11,891. The defendant had paid full restitution in advance of her sentencing.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Black. (USAO)



Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association

New Location!



PACIFIC
ISLANDS
CLUB SAIPAN

Pavilion

Wednesday January 29, 6:30pm

All MHS parents and teachers are invited to participate in a special PTA meeting!

Please confirm your attendance by calling
237-3206 or 664-3800

Walk-ins Welcome

UOG students experience Korean culture



A total of 15 students participated in the weeklong "Feeling Korea" program that ran from Jan. 12 to 18, 2014, at Chonbuk National University in South Korea. The students each received a travel scholarship from UOG's Professional & International Programs, which covered all costs associated with the program as part of the UOG's effort to increase international educational opportunities for students.

UOG



UOG

University of Guam students Brittany Aguon, Alana Chargualaf, Kathleen Lamorena, and Jericho Tobias wear traditional Korean clothes as part of the weeklong "Feeling Korea" program at Chonbuk National University in South Korea.

Fifteen University of Guam students can now say with certainty that the Chonbuk National University winter "Feeling Korea" program was aptly named. Along with the cold winter weather, the students felt the culture and history of South Korea during their one-week stay on the Chonbuk National University campus from Jan. 12 to 18, 2014. Organized and funded by the UOG Professional and International Programs office, the 15 participants earned the International Experience Schol-

arship, which provided funding for their travel to Korea.

The students completed a total of 30 hours of instruction, which included 15 hours of Korean language and 15 hours of cultural activities including cooking *bibimbap*, performing the art of *pansori*, and learning about the traditional *hanbok* clothing. During free time, students were able to explore the city of Jeonju—right across the street from the campus gate—and visit local restaurants, cafes, and shops.

» UOG provides scholarship for students to participate in the Chonbuk National University 'Feeling Korea' Program.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 28, 2006

CUC back in emergency

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is again under the administration's direct control, with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declaring CUC under a state of emergency effective yesterday. Fitial said the new emergency declaration for CUC will remain in force for 60 days. After this period, an executive order permanently placing CUC under the Executive Branch will become effective. The executive order, which will abolish the CUC board of directors, was also signed yesterday. "The CUC right now is boardless and

CUC right now doesn't have an executive director. So CUC is at present in a state of disarray. We need to move in and take control of CUC," Fitial said in a news briefing yesterday.

'Legit route to mining permit is via task force'

Although it supports and encourages the interest shown by Bridgecreek International in mining pozzolan from Pagan, local CNMI watchdog group PaganWatch said it neither endorses Bridgecreek nor its joint venture with J.G. Sablan. In a statement issued yesterday, PaganWatch said it would not endorse the bid of any company

that does not go through the community task force on mining that the Marianas Public Land Agency agreed to form and that the Governor's MPLA Transition Team recommended be activated immediately. PaganWatch co-founder Peter J. Perez said some confusion might have been caused by what he described as a "misquote" in a newspaper interview that he had concerning the California-based real estate development firm.

January 28, 2007

Ralliers call for consultation

Over 200 people showed up at the American Memorial Park Friday where they held a peaceful rally, asking the U.S. Congress to consult the CNMI first before passing legislations that will affect the Commonwealth. The ralliers, spearheaded by a group called

"Our Commonwealth," started putting up tents and converging at the park's Amphitheater at 4pm. Five musicians on the stage entertained people with local songs before the ceremony formally started at 5:05pm with the singing of the U.S. and CNMI national anthems.

US Senate sets CNMI immigration hearing

Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio has been invited to a Senate hearing next month to testify on issues regarding labor, immigration, law enforcement, and economic conditions in the CNMI. Tenorio said he received an invitation from Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to testify before the committee on Feb. 8. Believing, though, that the testimony of CNMI residents would bolster his own testimo-

ny during the hearing, Tenorio is inviting all members of the CNMI community to submit comments to the committee.

January 28, 2008

Wage hikes harmful to NMI

Scheduled future wage hikes will further harm the Commonwealth's ailing economy, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Labor to Congress. The U.S. Labor report said that raising the local minimum wage to the federal level would have adverse impacts on employment and lead to additional population declines in the Commonwealth. Increasing the CNMI wage to \$7.25 an hour, the report said, is comparable to raising the U.S. minimum wage to \$16.50 an hour.

Archbishop Balvo to visit

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo, Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific, will visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for a week-long visit from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3. On behalf of Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa welcomes archbishop Balvo to the CNMI. "This pastoral visit by Archbishop Balvo will enable him to experience the life and activity of our local Church, interact with people, and share with us the thoughts and ideas of the Holy Father," said Bishop Camacho. Archbishop Balvo serves as the Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific wherein lies the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and, as the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Western Samoa, Tonga, Palau and Vanuatu.

Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2014

The 10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 15-16, 2014, is offering twice the fun this year with the addition of the 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim on the same weekend.

The event will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose.

Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorrilyn's and Street Motel. Some

hotels offer airport shuttle, as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas. The Marianas Visitors Authority will also offer a boat charter for \$30/person round trip. Charter reservations may be made by calling MVA Accounting at 670.664.3200.

The celebration honors *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island. The event is also co-sponsored Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include

cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 1pm to 10pm on Feb. 15 and from 10am to 10pm on Feb. 16.

The 14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon will be

held on Feb. 15 at 7:30am, offering a 1.5K swim, 40K swim, and 10K run. The reef swim consists of three courses: 1.5K, 3K, and 4.5K. Applications are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1433-9365 or email at vborja@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

Limtiaco, AG, CNMI Senate sign ESGR SOS

US Attorney for Guam and CNMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, CNMI Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas; and members of the CNMI Senate recently signed a Department of De-

fense - Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve "Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve," joining employers nationwide and in Guam who have pledged their

support to the 1.4 million men and women that serve and our country (2,700 on Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan) as members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Supportive employers and government leaders are especially critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units. (ESGR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

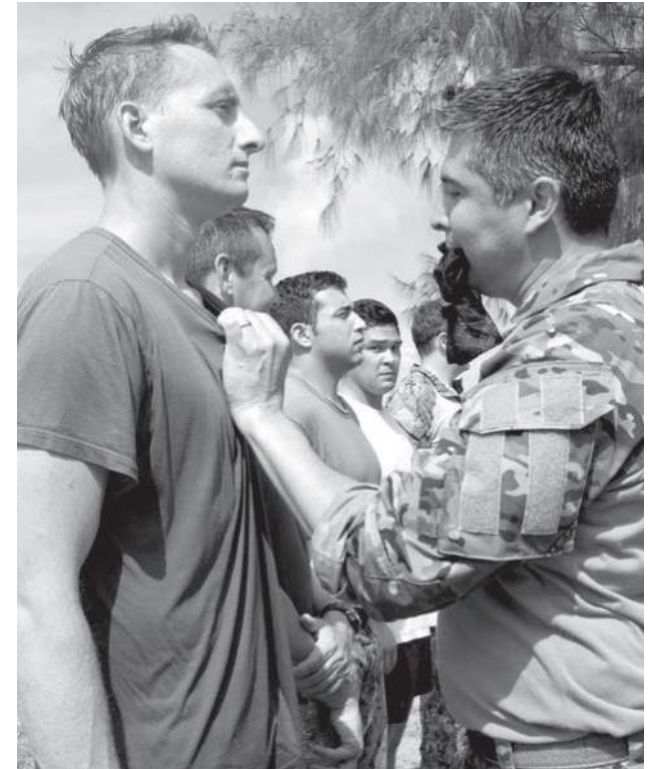
From left, Senate Vice President Victor B. Hocog, CNMI Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, Senate President Ralph DLG Torres, Senate employee Sim Lisua, U.S. Attorney for Guam and NMI Alicia AG Limtiaco, Pamela Brown Blackburn of the Law Office of Pamela Brown Blackburn; and U.S. Attorney's Office's Eric Gregoire.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Sen. Francisco M. Borja, Sen. Pete P. Reyes, Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao; David Sablan, State Chair, ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee; Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, and Sen. Ray Yumul.

5 sailors get their naval parachutist wings



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 commanding officer Cmdr. Oscar Rojas pins the naval parachutist warfare insignia on Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 2nd Class (EXW/PJ) Jacob Daugherty during a ceremony at Nimitz Beach in Agat, Guam Jan. 24. Daugherty was awarded his new warfare device after completing his 10th parachute jump.

By JOANNA DELFIN
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AGAT, Guam—Five Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 received their naval parachutist warfare devices during a pinning and award ceremony at Nimitz Beach in Agat, Guam, on Jan. 24.

As part of Navy tradition EODMU-5 commanding officer Cmdr. Oscar Rojas participated in the jump with the insignias in tow in order to have saltwater touch the pins. Following the jump, Rojas pinned the warfare devices on the sailors and congratulated them on their achievements.

"It's a part of our culture it's part of our traditions," he said. "It's a major career milestone for our sailors to receive their gold wings and I'll tell you that every time you put on your uniform and you look at those wings it just makes you feel that much prouder."

Though the event was to recognize command service members on their successes, Rojas took a moment to thank aircrew from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 85 who provided air support as EODMU-5 sailors jumped from HSC-85's HH-60H Seahawk helicopters.

"Having an additional helicopter squadron on

Guam has helped us out tremendously not only for parachute operations but for other insertion capabilities such as fast rope," he said. "It's increasing our helicopter support on Guam [that] increases our readiness tremendously."

Australian Navy Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jamie Fields received his gold wings and said the accolade meant more to him as he was awarded during his service as the liaison officer for Australia at the command.

"The jump out of the helicopter was my first time jumping out of a helicopter and my first jump with the U.S. military and an absolute honor to jump with the U.S.," he said. "I was a little bit nervous about actually what it was like to exit from a helicopter; however, it was smooth, it was a beautiful descent and to receive my gold wings [was an] absolute honor."

EODMU-5 deploys and employs tailored EOD units to locate, identify, render safe and remove conventional, chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and improvised explosive hazards in order to enable access for joint, naval, and special operations forces within the Western Pacific Theater of Operations and elsewhere, when directed.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



Tinituhon Edukasion

Idukasion famagjon-ta ha tutuhongue' ginen halom guma' familia. Deste ke man-mafañagu estake listu para u fan eskuela "pre-school" `sino primet gradu, gaige na mafana' gue esta ni liñguahiña yan otru siha man-presisu na krineansa.

`Nai sige mona gi halom konbetsasion familia, mafana' gue kutturan yan tradision natibu. Chetton ennau na leksion deste otdinariu na lina' la' esta guatu gi espirituat tat kumu dottrina. Maseha haye na patgon, ansianu para unna' mauleg-gue'.

Ayu mina' sumen sentidu haf' tinituhofia ginen halom guma'. `An mauleg ya felis, siempre u mauleg ennau na patgon. `An chat-makreansa pues siempre lokue' u anog ennau gi kustumbren i prohibu. Estague' mina' sumen paska i asuntu. Na' gua-ha pinasensia ya un' esgaion mona.

Yangin in' hassu un' saina `nai ha hatsa hulu' i neni ni pa'gu ha tutuhon mamokat. Guiya este na pasu i husasangan na ayudu gi gada' na patgon. Pasensiaye!

I modun pinegsai-mu u lachog gi hatdin ha`animu kumu i mas man-gatbu na flores asusena gi linala'mu. Hagu i pipulan diariu. Fanayuyot ya un' manae' pinasensia yan sensian antau na disposision siha.

Obligasion Saina

Dañkulu na obligasion gaige gi apaga' maseha haye na saina. Piot sa' tatnai huli' leblu matuge' haf' obligasion saina taiguihe leblun kareta.

Hagu `nai gaige todú. Dispues, finu' man-amku' debi un' sahñge para un' tuñgu' haf' fattamu. Kase guiya ha' este yan responsablidad saina.

Bastara ke guahu mas amku' ti tropan 14 na mañe'lu, tat che'chu' palao'an tihu tuñgu' fuera de mapotget yan man-diskatga. Deste che'chu' kusina, mamagasen magagu, man-inkola yan man-prensa todú hu chage gi hagas bateha yan foggun guafe antes. Ayu mina' finuyu' gi asuntun halom guma' kontodu trahe.

Makat na mattiru i hiniyuñg i Navy guine gi 1961. Megai mañainata manmadispacha ginen che'chu' niha. Ensegidas, todus bimira siha tatte gi gualu yan offisiun tasi. Ayu na tiempu `nai hu dimimoria haf' kustiayasña hayun tañgantañgan. Ayu `nai huli' difirensia gi hayun tañgantañgan yan gagu gi hilu' foggun.

I suetten mame guihe siha na tiempu i fifitme ha' sensian kabales na komunidan natibu. Tat ti umatrebigue' man-ayuda gi che'chu' linahyan `sino muna' fañage bisinu kinisechan gualu yan tasi. Adumididi' i mattirin tiempu fumunas este na sensian ina'ayuda gi señgsong siha. Mauleg ta pañgun tatte este na patte gi tradision man-natibu.

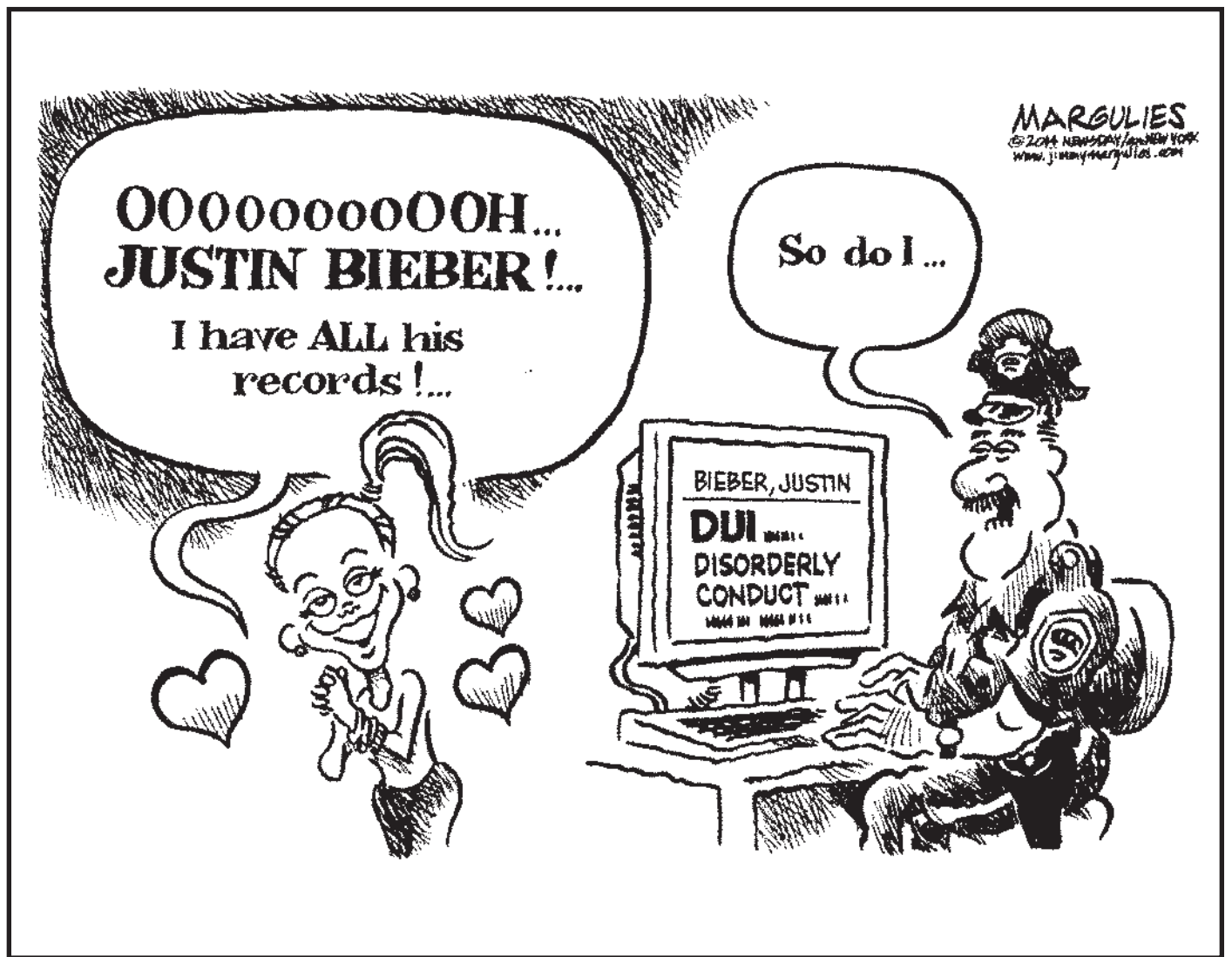
Nae' animu gi obligasion familia. Pasensiaye i patgon sa' guiya lokue' malagu' na u felis mona kareraña. Pipet `an presisu pot para u siña fitme mas gi disposisioña.

Añklan Espirituat

`An un' fanague i patgon manayuyot, siempre ha pega papa' gi fondun tasin linala'ña i fitme na añklan espirituat. Estague' na patte gi makreansaña sumede umeyag haf' dinanche yan lache. Kanaha' makat para u abarambau mona gi kareraña.

Gigon ha pega papa' gi halom tasi añkalaña, siempre u fitme

See **TINITUHON** on next page



Li Na

I am partial to the name. I traveled to Yanbian (Korea in China) in Manchuria three years ago to deliver a laptop to Li Na of Hunchun from her mother who resided in the CNMI.

For most of the provinces of China since Beijing hosted the Olympics 2008, (except heavily ethnic-dominated regions), public signage is in Chinese and English. When I got to Tumen in Yanbian, however, all the signs were only in Chinese and Korean, not surprising since a huge part of Manchuria in what are now the provinces of Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, and part of Primorsky Krai of Russia, were part of the ancient kingdom of Koguryo/Gaogouli, precursor to the Koreans.

But it is the name of the young girl Li Na that stuck to my mind and got revived when the Chinese tennis player won the French Open a couple of years ago. I am not a tennis aficionado. A tenuous connection ended when I gave up my racquets seven years ago on Saipan after ankle and joints buckled while volleying across the net at the court's kitty corner to CHC on Middle Road. I noticed Li Na in the French Open only because a prominent English newspaper's sports page headlined: "Na Li wins French Open." The English newspaper decided to Anglicize Li Na's name, thus its noticeably jarring headline.

Among foreigners teaching English to Chinese students, their students adopt English names, or the teacher assigns one for ease of memory of matching names and faces together. On my first semester of teaching, I asked my students' to fill up a profile form, and I got English names. However, when I called them in the street, or outside the classroom, they ignored my call. They were not rude; they were just not used to being called by their English names!

So, on the second semester, I had students write Chinese names, asked them to include an English name if they had one, but not to bother if they didn't. I was delighted to have many who did not indicate English names. To remember names and faces together, I took photos so I had a sheet each session with pictures of everyone along with their Chinese names.

On roll call, the customary practice is to call the family name first. If they give an English name, I used those as first names to the family names, followed by their Chinese given name. Most of the students were appreciative that they did not have to answer to an English name they really did not care about and were known to change every semester, more so that I made the effort to learn their individual Chinese names and took their photos to help me remember them.

I teach oral English to an audience that read (quietly) and wrote, but did not speak. Chinese is a "see" language. Dyslexics fit well into the language because one learns to recognize each character as distinct from another in the same way as dyslexics in English recognize a group of letters as one unit of memory

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



and not by phonetics. Thus, students were trained in Chinese to understand what they read, and knew enough vocabulary in English to write, but speaking was like having their tooth pulled without anesthesia at the dentist!

I told the students on the first day that I will never be able to pronounce their names properly, so they did not need to worry about proper pronunciation at all when called upon to speak English. My sole job was to get them to open their mouths and use words they studiously memorized in the last 10 years of their schooling, not to correct syntax and pronunciation. That worked!

Li Na the tennis player contemplated retiring from the grueling tennis tour a year before Australia. At a month short of 32 years during the games, her cartilages were no longer as flexible as they once were when she turned pro at 16. She had not won any Grand Slam event since she won the French Open at 28. Oh, she still plays well but she was just reaching the quarter and semi-finals and was no longer expected to top the slate. On Saturday, that changed. She won the Australian Open along with critics' universal respect for the effort.

Seeded No. 1 Spaniard Rafael Nadal dismissed erstwhile Swiss friend Roger Federer in the men's semi-final tourney, but went on to lose the championship in four sets to Federer's Swiss partner in the Beijing Olympics doubles (they won the gold), 28-year-old number 8 seeded Stanislas Wawrinka.

Li Na was No. 5 in the world but seeded No. 4 in the Australian Open; she was expected to fade away into retirement. Younger players decimated Li Na's age group quickly, but the stubborn stalwart past her prime finished upstart but 20th seeded 24-year-old Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in two sets.

Li Na and Wawrinka are expected to gain No. 3 ratings after their wins.

For one who contemplated retiring earlier because, perhaps, it was time, Li Na gave her whacks an extra oomph and defied the odds. I retired last year, perhaps, ahead of my time. So it is that Li Na's performance stares me straight in the eye as if to say, "Go find your challenge that you can win against the odds."

Thanks, Li Na. I needed that!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

90-year-old Battle of Saipan Navy veteran returns after 71 years for WWII pilgrimage

Born in California on Dec. 28, 1923, Lloyd Glick was a naive 18-year-old boy watching a movie at a theater in downtown Berkeley on Dec. 7, 1941, when they stopped the movie to announce Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor.

A few days after the attack, Lloyd, already an accomplished trumpet player as 2nd trumpet chair for the University of California Symphony (even though he never attended the university), took his desire to serve his country, his lifelong passion for music (at 12 years old, he'd been the bugler for his Boy Scout camp) and his dream of attending the prestigious U.S. Naval School of Music, and showed up at the Navy recruiting office in San Francisco.

Four months later, with his parents' signed permission, he joined the U.S. Navy as a way of entering its music program. That decision would ultimately land him the position of musician second class aboard the USS *North Carolina* as a member of the ship's band while it participated in the bombings of Saipan, Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and battles throughout World War II's pivotal Pacific campaign.

For those of us who are not war buffs familiar with such things, it may come as a surprise that there would actually be a 20-piece band aboard a battleship during wartime. I've since learned quite a lot about what life was like as a swing band member aboard a U.S. battleship and was fascinated by his accounts of the role that music played in the daily lives of sailors while at sea as well as ashore. It makes for fascinating reading!

"I really believe that I grew and matured during my over two years aboard *North Carolina*," Lloyd recalls. "I was still a relatively naive kid when I went aboard; I had never even owned or used a razor. I was age 19 when I went aboard and 21 when I left the ship. And yes, I had by then used my first razor."

The *North Carolina* participated in bombings of Palau, Pohnpei, the Marshall Islands, and other islands in the region. Lloyd found himself on or positioned near Majuro, Ulithi, Kwajalein, New Caledonia refueling, taking rest, entertaining, or actually engaged in providing bombing support in the battles against the Japanese empire.

Japan ultimately surrendered after the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima. During a refueling stop just off the coast of Japan while awaiting the call to enter the Japanese harbor at the time of Japan's signing of the peace treaty, Lloyd's band was replaced and were as sent back to the U.S. on another vessel.

Seventy-one years later, at age 90, he and his wife of 30 years, Judy, have arranged a cruise of the Pacific that includes a scheduled stop on the islands of Guam and Saipan.

"Our band never did get to actually go into Japan with her [USS *North Carolina*]," Lloyd recalls. "So this upcoming cruise to Saipan



Musician Second Class Lloyd Glick, Pearl Harbor, 1943. According to him: "This photo was taken in Pearl Harbor in 1943 one day when I was in town on liberty while our ship was at the Navy Yard for repairs. This was taken at a little photo booth in Honolulu. I was age 19. I think I paid 50 cents for the picture."

and eventually Japan will, in a way, be a finish to a long journey that started in New Caledonia in 1943."

This will be the first time Lloyd has been back to Saipan in 71 years.

"After the war, I have played in many different bands, both so-called [big] swing bands and professional-level community groups. In 1990, upon my retirement from the Automobile Club of Southern California, I joined the Los Angeles Police Department Band, playing

By WALT GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



for department graduations and other official functions. In 1995 I accepted appointment as a reserve police officer and became the LAPD department bugler. I remained as both a reserve officer and as the bugler until my retirement from those positions three months ago."

A special surprise

So, a week from today, on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2014, the cruise ship *Crystal Serenity* will be docking on Saipan with special passenger, Lloyd Glick, aboard. While making arrangements for his and his wife Judy's WWII pilgrimage tour of Saipan (as well as in Guam), I've had the chance to correspond by email with him practically every day for the past few months. I've been using all the emails, journal entries, and photos he's been sharing with me about his two years aboard the USS *North Carolina* to arrange a special gift to present to him upon his arrival. Shhhhhh. The cruise ship is now surfing the high seas, and since he probably won't be surfing the Web to discover this article, Lloyd doesn't know that's what I've been doing, or what we have planned for him, so please keep it a secret, okay? This is just between us here on Saipan for now.

It's not every day a 90-year old veteran returns to our shores. If you'd like to come out, pay your respects, shake hands with a piece of history on that unique day, see the information below! Meanwhile, I'll be sharing more fascinating details from my chats with Lloyd as well as a recount of his special return to Saipan. Stay tuned!

■ ■ ■ ■

■ To see a few of Lloyd's personal photos and to read a little more about what it was like aboard the USS *North Carolina* in 1943, visit www.bestofsaipan.com/bugleboy.

■ For more information on his Feb 4 Saipan itinerary, to ask questions, arrange interviews, etc., contact Lloyd at bugleboy@bestofsaipan.com.

■ For the last minute, day before arrival update as to where that informal presentation will take place, join the Saipan Facebook group at [facebook.com/welovesaipan](https://www.facebook.com/welovesaipan).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

E-gaming ignorance

It should already be common knowledge that the electronic casinos will *not* generate new revenues as there are no special flights or anything planned to bring in tourists specifically to gamble at hotels in a room full of machines and there hasn't been one feasibility study or anything to prove different. The tourists that are going to play these machines were coming to the CNMI anyway to spend their money on vacation, not necessarily to gamble, so we were going to get their money anyway! The real gamblers and high-rollers go to real casinos, so guess who is going to be the top players—locals again. The citizens who are falling for the ridiculous political rhetoric that e-gaming is going to do so much to help the CNMI are ignorant about the economics of e-gaming or they are following someone who has no proof.

As for e-gaming being the salvation for the retirees, that is exactly what politicians want you to think, just like they promised us "better times" and lots of other broken promises that were never backed up with evidence and facts. They used every excuse in the book to

make gambling bigger on Saipan and now it's the Fund for the sake of politics only, not because they care so much about retirees but to get re-elected. By the time we see for true their mistake it will be another two years and they will have new political footfalls to toss us.

As for people not wanting to identify themselves, I don't blame them and more important is the fact that it does not matter who but what they are saying and promoting. Their names won't make one difference but the haters don't like it because they don't have a messenger to attack and have to deal with the empirical truths and facts that e-gaming is casinos and that they won't create new revenues.

As for the public hearings, I was there at all of them trying to stop the casinos first, hoping our leaders realize that e-gaming is casinos but they didn't. The members of the House, Senate and governor who passed H.B. 18-51 are either ignorant about the many different alternatives to e-gaming or they are followers serving a different boss than the people. It is truly disappointing when you consider the fact that the people and the Catholic Church are on record twice against casinos on Saipan, which is e-gaming; they didn't respect the people or God.

Alternatives, I can tell readers for true a referendum will be spon-

sored for the people to kill e-gaming, followed by an initiative to create a Micronesia lottery for the CNMI, Guam, FSM, and Palau that will be owned by the CNMI government and operated by a private company through a bidding process. There is also talk of a marijuana initiative to make it legal for medical and recreation purposes like the states of Colorado and Washington. Do we have to be last at everything? FYI, the city of Denver saw \$567 million in collections last year, which is a clear indicator tourist will literally be fighting for a plane ticket to visit the CNMI. There is also the fact that the President has stated publicly that we (America) need to move forward and stop arresting our youth for something that almost every adult has tried. The war on pot is a futile war as it grows freely.

P.S.: Ignorance is bliss for those who will follow anything and anyone and I bet these are desperate people who don't believe in God and some of the same people who are still asleep in dreamland and their vote for Better Times and Let it Be. Hello, wake up, it's 2014!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

■ ■ ■ ■

I linala' poble fuetsau nina' eyag hau lumala' gi hilu' animu mañoda' satbasonmu. Deste pinegsai yan tinanom un' usune pot lamasan senan familia. Tai finagtos este na patte gi ha'anen mañaina-ta piot gi 1961 'nai humanau i administrasion i Navy.

Sessu man-afagcha' ham yan otu siha famaguon bisinu gi karan para i gualu'. Man-gigigu ham ha' ta'lu tatte gi gima' gi minachom atdau. Ai, makat lau tat ti malulog mauleg guihe na tiempu. 'An ti unnae' animu, pues todú dia siempre magap hau mamañot mañolo'. De dios!

TINITUHON

From Page 10

lugat botiña gi halom katma yan pagyu. Ti u falagu ennau na boti ya u pinanag kinibrutu ni kurente yan lañgat sa' esta ma-añkla fitne. Hagu mismu ni saina u felis siñientemu 'an un' impatta ineyag espirituat gi famaguon-mu.

Peskan Talaya

Mauleg na tiempu 'nai man-chiliguagua' ham 'an tumalaya antes

bihun mame giya Puntan Muchot. Sige in' dalalake ya kada ha tantan i tiau yan maninenng gi hilu' unai, in' rikohe ya in' saguan gi lagua'. Dispues hafana' gue ham mana' gasgasña gi mayilulog halom unai pot para u suha gonañña.

'An mattu gi gima', kumelaguen ya hana' dañe'e galag ma'sun yan manadan doni' sali. De dios ma paires amotsan taloa'ne. Ni unu kumekuentos pot no u madiñgu man-hala patteña kelaguen. Guaha lokue' ma-aflitun pattun ni dinanche yan finadeni' yan maipen hinegsa'. Diberas, man-homlu' ham guihe na tiempu deste che'chu' gualu' esta i tasi.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼80

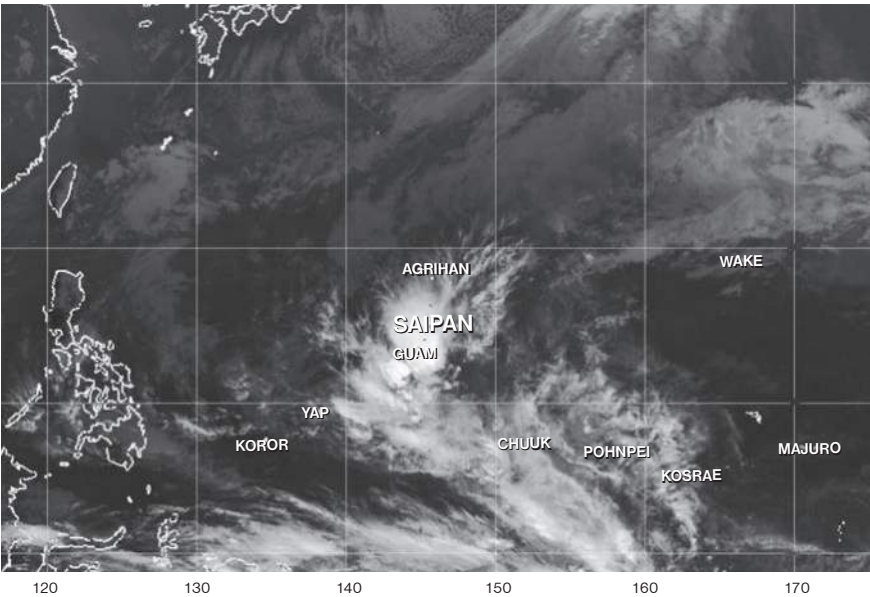
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71 ▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲72 ▼62
Honolulu	Showers	▲76 ▼65
London	Showers	▲48 ▼42
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70 ▼48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲95 ▼65
Miami	Sunny	▲83 ▼64
New York	Showers	▲37 ▼11
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼38
Paris	Showers	▲45 ▼37
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼35
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼35
Salem	Cloudy	▲45 ▼39
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲34 ▼19
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼36
Washington, DC	Windy	▲39 ▼12

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves westward from 18N180 to Wake Island then turns northwestward as a warm front to 22N152E before shifting southwestward as a shear line to end near 11N141E. Extensive cloud cover and patchy showers are found along and up to 550 miles north of the frontal boundary east of 18N153E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring northwest of the shear line over the Marianas along and within 110 miles northwest of the shearline. A surface trough runs southeastward from a circulation centered south of Guam near 10N145E to another circulation centered southwest of Kosrae at 3N159E to EQ162E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located west of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 10N145E to EQ157E. Similar weather is occurring over Pohnpei within 75 miles of a line from 10N156E to EQ163E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:42 AM	3:26 PM
Wednesday	4:43 AM	4:29 PM
Thursday	5:42 AM	5:34 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	7:30 AM	7:40 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



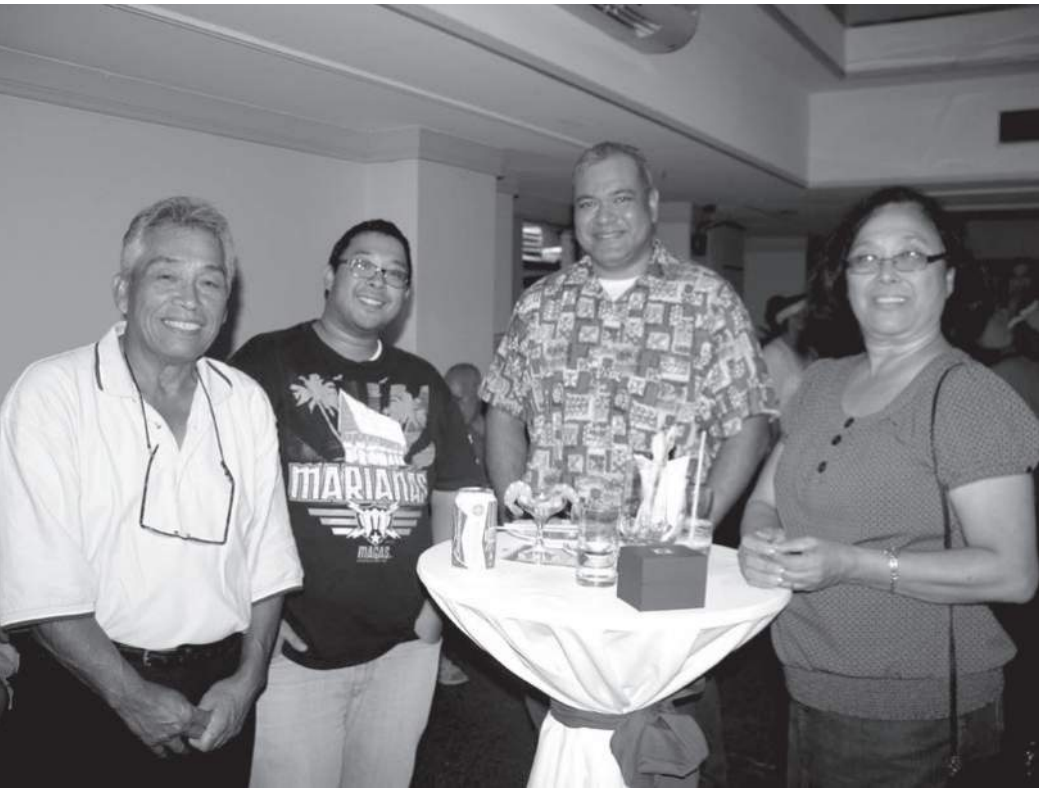
NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

‘I Am Chamorro’ Fundraiser

Photos By MARK RABAGO



Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan L. Babauta and company are all smiles while attending last Wednesday’s “I Am Chamorro” fundraiser held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Division of Coastal Resources management director Fran Castro, left, poses with Northern Marianas College external affairs director Frankie Eliptico, second from left, Mt. Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, second from right, and two other friends during last Wednesday’s “I Am Chamorro” fundraiser.



DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce, second from right, poses with Joeten Motors president Frances T. Demapan, right, McDonald’s Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, and another friend during last Wednesday’s “I Am Chamorro” fundraiser.



DFS Saipan manager Ben Babauta, second from right, poses with Triple J Enterprises vice president for finance and administration Mike Sablan, second from left, DFS Saipan’s Glenn Rabago and another friend during last Wednesday’s “I Am Chamorro” fundraiser.



Volunteers that manned the registration table model “I Am Chamorro” T-shirts that were on sale.



DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce thanks everyone who attended last Wednesday’s “I Am Chamorro” fundraiser while the evening’s emcee, Jay Santos of Triple J, looks on.

Business

Minimum wage bills pushed in at least 30 states

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Minimum-wage increase proposals are getting the maximum push from Democrats in statehouses in more than half of U.S. states, highlighting the politically potent income inequality issue this year.

Lawmakers in at least 30 states are sponsoring or are expected to introduce wage hike measures, according to a national review by The Associated Press. They hope to notch state-level victories as President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats remain stymied in attempts to raise the federal minimum wage above \$7.25 an hour. The president is expected to mention the minimum wage in his State of the Union address Tuesday.

Even in Republican-dominated capitals where the bills are longshots, the measures still give Democrats a chance to hammer home the popular theme of fair wages in what is an election year in most places.

"It's a no-brainer for any Democrat," said Neil Sroka, a strategist for progressive groups who is communications director at the Howard Dean-founded Democracy for America. "Congress is failing. They can take real action right in the states and have a demonstrable impact right here at home. For politics and policy, it's a winning strategy."

Minimum wage is a perennial issue that has taken on a higher profile amid the slowly recovering economy and growing public debate about income inequality. A Quinnipiac University poll this month found 71 percent of Americans in favor



Assemblyman Carl Heastie, D-Bronx, a sponsor to raise the state's minimum wage, works in the Assembly Chamber at the state Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, in Albany, N.Y.

of raising the minimum wage—including more than half of Republicans polled.

Michael Sargeant, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, calls it an "organic issue that's bubbling up from the grassroots." But it's also being pressed by politicians and labor unions. Democrats challenging Republican governors have

taken up the issue, and there are ballot initiatives in several states.

"We are facing a huge income gap that only continues to widen, where the workers at the top see large wage increases and the workers at the bottom are at a standstill. That needs to change," said Massachusetts Democratic Senate President Therese Murray.

Five states passed minimum wage measures last year, and advocates hope that number will grow as states from New Hampshire to Washington consider proposals. Many would push families above the federal poverty line, which is \$15,730 for a family of two. In Iowa, a bill would hike the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10. A Rhode Island bill would raise it

from \$8 to \$9. And a year after New York approved a multiyear minimum wage hike, Assembly Democrats introduced another bill for 2014 sponsored by Labor Committee Chairman Carl Heastie of New York City that would accelerate the increase.

Labor unions and other advocates point to workers like Andrew Lloyd, who cleans the cabins, bathrooms and cock-

pits of airplanes between flights at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City for \$8 an hour. With a wife and 1-year-old, he relies on food stamps to help stock the refrigerator and his paychecks barely cover diapers and other needs of his daughter. He said he can't afford a new pair of socks for himself.

"It's not enough. What we're making is not enough to support," Lloyd said. "There's just no way they can justify what is going on is right."

Opponents, many of them Republicans, argue that the higher wages translate into fewer jobs and higher consumer costs. So wage hike bills in Republican-controlled legislatures, like Florida and South Carolina, are not expected to pass. In Florida, Gov. Rick Scott said the claim that working families need the boost to make ends meet makes him "cringe, because I know that statement is a lie."

"Even if we did raise the minimum wage, working families will still not be able to make ends meet on those jobs," Scott said. "We need good jobs that lead to good careers for our families, and that's what I am focused on."

Already, a Democrat-backed bill to increase Indiana's minimum wage by \$1 was blocked by majority Republicans on a party-line vote Tuesday.

Win or lose, the legislation gives Democrats a potential weapon against Republican opponents. Eddie Vale, a Democratic strategist with close ties to labor unions, said Republicans who oppose a wage hike will face fierce criticism.

German TV: Snowden says NSA also spies on industry

BERLIN (AP)—Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden claimed in a new interview that the U.S. agency is involved in industrial espionage.

In the interview aired Sunday night on German public television broadcaster ARD, Snowden said if German engineering company Siemens had information that would benefit the U.S., but had nothing to do with national security needs,

the National Security Agency would still use it.

It wasn't clear what exactly Snowden accused the NSA of doing with such information—he only said he didn't want to reveal the details before journalists did.

Snowden also told ARD television that he was no longer in possession of any NSA documents, because he had passed them all on to a few selected journalists and that he had no

further influence on the release of the files.

He also said U.S. government representatives wanted to kill him, according to a simultaneous German translation by the station. Snowden referred to an article he had read on BuzzFeed in which U.S. government representatives had told a reporter that they wanted to kill him.

Snowden, wearing a white shirt and black jacket, also chatted

about his childhood and said he'd always been fascinated by computers and was one of those kids whose parents would tell him late at night to finally turn it off.

Hubert Seipel, the reporter who talked to Snowden, said he first met him in Moscow at the end of December and conducted the interview on Thursday.

Seipel described Snowden, 30, as "worried, but relaxed at the same time." He said

Snowden was studying Russian, but that he couldn't confirm any further details about where exactly he met Snowden or whether he is working for a Russian Internet company, as some media have previously reported.

Snowden faces felony charges in the U.S. after revealing the NSA's mass surveillance program. He is living under temporary asylum in Russia, which has no extradition treaty with the U.S.

Coke: Stolen laptops had info of 74,000 people

Coca-Cola said Friday that laptop computers stolen from its Atlanta headquarters held the personal information of up to 74,000 people.

The company has recovered the laptops and spokeswoman Ann Moore said Coca-Cola has no indication that the information on the stolen computers was misused. Moore confirmed that the personal information on the laptops belonged mostly to employees or former employees of Coca-Cola Co.

Coke is sending letters to about 18,000 people whose names and Social Security numbers were found on the laptops. The laptops also contained information on compensation, ethnicity and addresses.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the theft Friday, citing a memo sent to Coca-Cola's U.S. and Canadian employees. Moore said that the company cannot provide further details on the thefts because there is an ongoing law enforcement investigation. (AP)

Japan posts record \$112B trade deficit in 2013

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's trade deficit surged 65 percent in 2013 to a record 11.47 trillion yen (\$112 billion), as rising costs for imports outstripped growth in exports, especially for oil.

Provisional data show exports rose 9.5 percent to 69.8 trillion yen (\$680.9 billion), while imports jumped 15 percent to 81.3 trillion yen (\$793.2 billion).

Japan's trade deficit in 2012 was 6.94 trillion yen. The deficit has been rising as costs for imports have surged with the

weakening of the Japanese yen and increased purchases of foreign oil and gas to make up for the loss of nuclear power following the disaster in Fukushima due to the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The largest shortfall, 13.2 trillion yen (\$128.8 billion), was with the Middle East, source of the largest share of resource-scarce Japan's imports of oil and gas.

The weaker yen is a mixed blessing for Japan. It is boosting

corporate profits due to increasing yen-denominated income for companies that earn a large share of their revenues overseas.

But apart from energy imports, Japanese manufacturers increasingly are relying on overseas sources for components for electronics and other products—further pushing import demand higher. The recovery in exports so far has failed to offset those costs, as meanwhile Japanese consumers are paying sharply higher prices for fuel and food.

Survey: US gas prices down 3.5 cents per gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average U.S. price of gasoline has dipped 3.5 cents a gallon in the past two weeks and prices in California have fallen nearly 8 cents in the same time period.

According to the Lundberg Survey released Sunday, the average nationwide for a gallon of regular is now \$3.31. Midgrade averages \$3.50 and premium is \$3.65.

Of cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, the lowest price, \$2.94, was in Billings, Mont.

San Diego, Calif., had the highest price at \$3.60.

In California, prices for a gallon of regular dropped nearly 8 cents to \$3.54.

The lowest price, \$3.34, was in Sacramento.

Nation

Health insurance law tricky for parents of Medicaid kids

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Families shopping for health insurance through the new federal marketplace are running into trouble getting everyone covered when children are eligible for Medicaid but their parents are not.

Children who qualify for Medicaid, the safety-net program for the poor and disabled, can't be included on subsidized family plans purchased through the federal marketplace, a fact that is taking many parents by surprise and leaving some kids stuck without coverage.

A California man says he was given false assurances that his children could be covered by the same plan he picked for his wife and himself, and a Florida father says his daughter is going without coverage while he waits for answers.

And in New Hampshire, some parents who've enrolled in private plans for themselves alone are finding out later that their children aren't eligible for Medicaid after all, leaving their kids with no options.

"The children are getting stuck in this spot where we've enrolled the parent, but we can't bring the children back on the family plan," Maria Proulx, senior legal counsel for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Hampshire, told a state advisory board panel this month.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services declined to say how the system is supposed to work for families and what problems have emerged. But a regional manager for CMS acknowledged the problem at the same New Hampshire meeting and said the

agency is working on it, as did Proulx in a later interview.

"This is an important issue, and we're not taking it lightly," she said. "Even if this impacts only one family ... it's a big deal and we want to get it resolved as quickly as possible."

The federal government sets minimum guidelines for Medicaid eligibility, but states can choose to expand coverage beyond that. In some states, parents must have significantly lower incomes to gain Medicaid coverage for themselves than they would to get coverage for just their children, either through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program—also known as CHIP—the low-income health insurance program for children who don't qualify for Medicaid.

In North Port, Fla., Russell Clouden was thrilled to find a better, cheaper family plan through the new marketplace, then stunned to realize his

14-year-old daughter wouldn't be enrolled because she might qualify for Florida Healthy Kids, the state's version of CHIP. The federal government

still hasn't transferred roughly 90,000 Medicaid files over to Florida officials, including Clouden's daughter's, so she still doesn't have insurance.



Robert Clark poses for a photo outside of his office on Friday, Jan. 24, 2014, in Menlo Park, Calif. AP

Md. mall gunman was avid skater, no criminal past

COLUMBIA, Md. (AP)—The gunman who killed two people at a Maryland mall was a teenage skateboarding enthusiast who had no criminal record before he showed up at the shopping center armed with a shotgun, plenty of ammunition and a backpack filled with crude homemade explosives, authorities said Sunday.

Darion Marcus Aguilar, 19, took a taxi to the Mall in Columbia in suburban Baltimore on Saturday morning and entered the building near Zumiez, a shop that sells skateboarding gear. He went downstairs to a food court directly below the store, then returned less than an hour later, dumped the backpack in a dressing room and started



Aguilar

shooting, police said.

Shoppers fled in a panic or barricaded themselves behind closed doors. When police arrived, they found three people dead—two store employees and Aguilar, who had killed himself, authorities said.

The shooting baffled investigators and acquaintances of Aguilar, a quiet, skinny teenager who graduated from high school less than a year ago and had no previous run-ins with law enforcement. Police spent Sunday trying to piece together his motive, but it remained elusive.

Aguilar, who had concealed the shotgun in a bag, fired six to nine times. One victim, Brianna Benlolo, a 21-year-old single mother, lived half a mile away from

Aguilar in the same College Park neighborhood, but police said they were still trying to determine what, if any, relationship they had.

Although they lived close to Maryland's largest university, neither was a student there. Aguilar was accepted last February to Montgomery College, a community college in the Washington suburbs, but school spokesman Marcus Rosano said he never registered or attended.

The other employee, Tyler Johnson, did not know Aguilar and did not socialize with Benlolo outside of work, a relative said.

Tydrin Scott, 19, said she was Aguilar's lab partner in science class at James Hubert Black High School and said he hung out with other skaters. She said she was stung by the news.

California drought has ranchers selling cattle

AROMAS, Calif. (AP)—In January, business at the 101 Livestock Market's cattle auction on California's Central Coast is usually slow. The busy season is normally in June or July, when ranchers have had time to fatten their animals for weeks on spring grasses.

This year, however, business is bustling, with packed pens of moaning cattle and cowboys standing on tip-toe to get a glance at their potential prizes.

Because of historically dry conditions, California's soil moisture—a key ingredient for the forage that cattle graze on—is low throughout the state. With feed costs high and weeks of dry weather in the forecast, ranchers are already selling off

parts of their herds as normally green grazing pastures have turned brown.

"We're in the drought now, so a lot of these are going back to Texas," said rancher and auction house co-owner Monty Avery, gesturing to a pen packed full of cows. "We usually sell about 100-150 animals per week. Now we're seeing 800-1,000 per week, so the volume's jumped up."

Gov. Jerry Brown has formally proclaimed a drought in California, a move that codified what farmers and ranchers in the state had known for weeks. The U.S. Drought Monitor has said there are "extreme drought" conditions in central and northern California, where much of

the state's ranching is located.

California is now in its third dry year, with little snowfall so far this winter and forecasts suggesting only more sunshine. Precipitation in most of the state is less than 20 percent of normal and reservoirs are dwindling—one town on California's far northern coast says it has fewer than 100 days of drinking water in storage.

The state is the nation's leader in dairy cows, and fourth overall in the U.S. for total number of cattle, trailing Texas, Nebraska and Kansas, according to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. With little free food available for cattle, some ranchers have already started controlling costs.

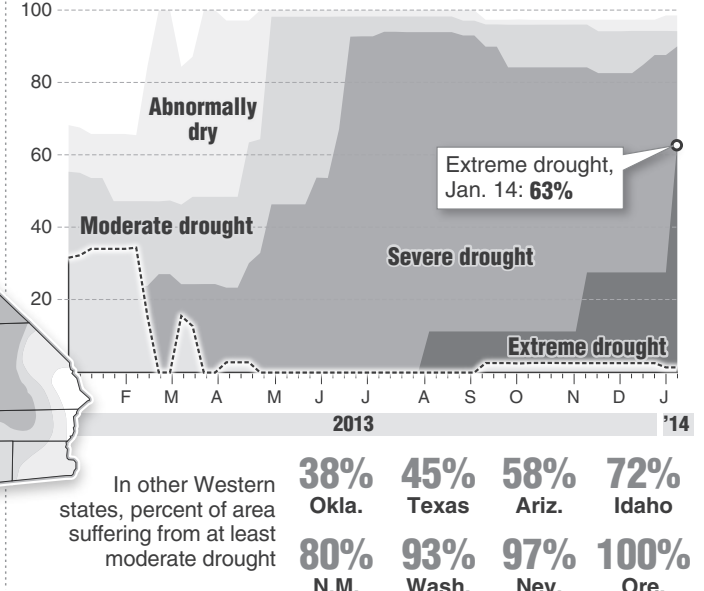
Drought conditions acute in California

The drought monitor prepared by the National Drought Mitigation Center in Nebraska measures dry conditions using a variety of sources, including public and media reports, scientific studies and weather and farm data. The center's data show most of California is experiencing severe or extreme drought.

Statewide conditions



Percentage of California suffering drought conditions



Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

Graphic: The Sacramento Bee, MCT

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Family: Brain-dead Texas woman off life support

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A brain-dead, pregnant Texas woman's body was removed from life support Sunday, as the hospital keeping her on machines against her family's wishes acceded to a judge's ruling that it was misapplying state law.

Marlise Munoz's body soon will be buried by her husband and parents, after John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth announced it would not fight Judge R.H. Wallace Jr.'s Friday order to pronounce her dead and return her body to her family. The 23-week-old fetus she was carrying will not be born.

The hospital's decision Sunday brings an apparent end to a case that became a touchstone for national debates about the

beginning and end of life, and whether a pregnant woman who is considered legally and medically dead should be kept on life support for the sake of a fetus.

Munoz's husband, Erick Munoz, sued the hospital because it would not remove life support as he said his wife would have wanted in such a situation. Erick and Marlise Munoz worked as paramedics and were familiar with end-of-life issues, and Erick said his wife had told him she would not want to be kept alive under such circumstances.

But the hospital refused his request, citing Texas law that says life-sustaining treatment cannot be withdrawn from a pregnant patient, regardless of her end-of-life wishes.

Wallace sided Friday with Er-

ick Munoz, saying in his order: "Mrs. Munoz is dead."

Wallace had given the hospital until 5 p.m. Monday to comply with his order, but officials there announced Sunday morning that it would forego any appeal.

"From the onset, JPS has said its role was not to make nor contest law but to follow it," according to a statement released by hospital spokeswoman J.R. Labbe. "On Friday, a state district judge ordered the removal of life-sustaining treatment from Marlise Munoz. The hospital will follow the court order."

Shortly afterward, Erick Munoz's attorneys announced that she had been disconnected from life support about 11:30 a.m.

Asia

Thai protesters obstruct vote; 1 dead in violence



Bangkok Metropolitan officials guard ballot boxes before placing them at polling stations during an advance voting in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government demonstrators swarmed dozens of polling stations in Thailand on Sunday to stop advance voting for next week's general elections, chaining gates shut, threatening voters and preventing hundreds of thousands of people from casting ballots.

A protest faction leader was fatally shot in a confrontation

near a voting center that also left 11 people wounded, the city's emergency services said, and isolated street brawls broke out in several parts of Bangkok.

The chaos underscored the precariousness of Thailand's fragile democracy, and the increasing weakness of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's elected administration. Yin-

gluck had called the Feb. 2 vote in a failed bid to ease months of street protests, but police did not disperse the crowds because of longstanding orders to avert violence, which many fear would give the all-powerful army reason to stage a coup.

"It's a sad day for democracy when the right to vote ... is assaulted by a political movement

that claims to be striving for reform and people's empowerment," Sunai Phasuk, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said of the protesters. "Everything that happened today shows they are striving for the opposite."

Sunai, who was also unable to vote, said that demonstrators forcefully intimidated would-be

voters, and in at least one case attempted to strangle a man. Demonstrators were also targeted—gunmen opened fire on a group attempting to block polling near a temple, killing faction leader Sutin Tharatin while he was giving a speech on the back of a truck.

Although most polling stations in Bangkok and many in the opposition stronghold in the south were forced to close, voting proceeded largely unhindered in the rest of the country. Still, the upheaval proved that demonstrators struggling to overthrow Yingluck have the ability to disrupt the main vote next week, and the country's electoral commission is unlikely to stand in their way.

The commission, which agrees with protesters that the poll should be delayed, is legally mandated to ensure registered voters are able to cast ballots safely. But on Sunday, its members "just sat down

and watched this thing collapse around them," Sunai said.

The commission is supposed to be neutral, but critics have accused its members of taking sides. Its top executive, Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, has posed for at least one smiling photo with demonstrators, and its officials failed to denounce a violent effort by protesters to disrupt candidate registration in December.

On Sunday, the commission issued no public condemnation of attempts to derail voting. Analysts say that is because courts and the country's independent oversight agencies are largely aligned against the current government in collusion with the army, royalists and powerful businessmen.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said the U.S. is "deeply troubled" by the efforts to block polling stations and prevent voting in Thailand and urged all sides "to refrain from violence" and "exercise restraint."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino troops battle rebels opposing peace deal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops clashed with hardline Muslim rebels opposed to the government's newly concluded peace deal with a main insurgent group, wounding at least two militants Monday in fighting. The clash underscored the difficulty of ending violence in the country's south despite the widely hailed conclusion over the weekend of Malaysian-brokered peace talks between the government and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front. At least four other smaller rebel groups threaten the peace in the south, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, whose fighters were involved in Monday's fighting. Regional army spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said police backed by troops were on the way to arrest Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement rebel commanders when the clash erupted in a vast marshland of southern Maguindanao province.

Hand grenade kills 6 children in Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—A hand grenade killed six children Sunday who found it while playing in a field in northwestern Pakistan, police said. The dead girl and five boys belong to two families displaced from a nearby tribal region, Orakzai, said Mian Ifikhar, the police chief of Hangu where the incident took place. The region lies near restive areas on the Afghan border that are home to Pakistani and al-Qaida-linked foreign Islamic militants. The military has carried out offensives recently in the tribal areas.

21 die as tourist boat sinks in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A boat carrying local tourists capsized Sunday in India's Andaman Sea in the Bay of Bengal, killing 21 people, officials said. Thirteen were rescued, said top Administrator P. Jawahar. Rescuers were looking for another 11 people believed to be missing, she said. The boat sank off the eastern Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and police official Shahji said the tourists were all Indians. Initial reports said the ferry developed a crack in the hull and sank, according to Shahji, who uses one name. Authorities ordered an inquiry.

Japan NHK boss under fire for comfort women remark

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's top government spokesman has defended the new head of public television NHK for his remarks that the use of women as military prostitutes was common worldwide during World War II. NHK chairman Katsuto Momii told a news conference Saturday to mark his appointment that "comfort women" existed in any country at war, not just Japan. He criticized South Korea for dredging up a compensation issue that had been settled by a bilateral peace treaty. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, peppered with questions at Monday's news conference about Momii's remark, defended them as his personal views. The government oversees NHK's public service content, and its chairman is picked by parliament-approved advisers.

Crocodile takes Australian boy, mauls another

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—Rangers shot two large crocodiles on Monday near where a 12-year-old boy was snatched and his friend was mauled as they swam in a water hole in a popular Outback tourist destination in northern Australia.

But neither saltwater crocodile—one 4.7 meters (15 feet, 5 inches) and the other 4.3 meters (14 foot, 1 inch)—is believed to be the killer, police Sergeant Stephen Constable said. A helicopter and boat search over the area continued Monday.

The missing boy was taken by

a crocodile as he and four other boys swam on Sunday afternoon at Mudginberri Billabong in World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, southeast of the Northern Territory capital of Darwin, Constable said.

Moments earlier, his 12-year-old friend was mauled as he fought the crocodile and sustained deep wounds to both arms, he said.

"One boy fought off the crocodile, and then the crocodile turned and took the other boy," Constable told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

The boy who survived "was first taken by the right arm, and then he fought off the crocodile and he's also got lacerations to his left elbow," Constable added.

Constable said the croc was thought to be at least three meters (10 feet) long. It is unlikely a child could have escaped a much larger croc.

The missing boy is from the small Aboriginal settlement of Mudginberri, west of the uranium mining town of Jabiru.

Police and park rangers searched with spot lights for the crocodile and boy by land and

boat into Sunday night. A fresh team of searchers resumed the hunt after dawn on Monday.

Constable said two airboats, flat-bottomed vessels that are driven by an aircraft-type propellers, would extend the search to flood plains on Monday.

Billabongs are semi-permanent water holes during the annual dry season, which become flooded parts of river systems during the current monsoonal season.

Constable said neither of the crocodiles that were shot had any evidence of the attack in its stomach.

Philippines to grant amnesty to Muslim rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government will grant amnesty to Muslim guerrillas who are facing or have been convicted on rebellion-related charges under a newly signed peace pact, which calls for the 11,000-strong rebel force to be deactivated, an official said Sunday.

Presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles said the amnesty, which still need congressional approval, would only cover fighters of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and exclude guerrillas who broke off from the group and continue to endanger peace.

According to the pact that was signed by Philippine government and rebel negotiators in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Saturday, the granting of the amnesty and pardon was aimed at facilitating "the healing of the wounds of conflict and the return to normal life."

The conclusion of the Malaysian-brokered talks has been the most significant progress made over 13 years of negotiations to tame a tenacious insurgency that has left more than 120,000 people dead and derailed development in Muslim-populated southern regions that are among

the most destitute in the Philippines.

Under the peace deal, the Moro insurgents agreed to end violence in exchange for broader autonomy. An existing five-province Muslim autonomous region is to be replaced by a more powerful, better-funded and potentially larger region to be called Bangsamoro.

Despite the milestone, both the government and the rebels acknowledged that violence would not end overnight in a region that has long grappled with a volatile mix of crushing poverty, huge numbers of illegal

firearms, clan wars and weak law enforcement.

Like other amnesty programs, only rebellion-related crimes could be absolved. Others like rape would not be covered, Deles said.

"It's not a blanket amnesty," Deles told The Associated Press, adding that the details still have to be threshed out.

Rebel spokesman Von Al Haq said dozens of guerrillas were currently detained on rebellion-related charges and that his group would draw up a list of fighters eligible to benefit from the program.

World

Syria talks yield narrow deal, Assad 'red line'

GENEVA (AP)—Two days of face-to-face peace talks yielded a narrow and tentative agreement Sunday for women and children trapped in a besieged Syrian city, and the government said President Bashar Assad had no intention of giving up “the keys to Damascus.”

With little progress to show after months of international pressure for the conference in Geneva, the U.N. mediator hoping to broker an end to Syria's civil war defended their pace.

“I think being too slow is a better way than going too fast,” Lakhdar Brahimi said. “If you run, you may gain one hour and lose one week.”

The limited agreement to let women and children leave a

blockaded part of the old city of Homs, under negotiation for at least two days, fell far short of expectations and was called into question by multiple reports of government shelling.

The talks have yet to touch upon the issue of a possible transitional government—their purpose according to terms laid out when they were first conceived. But the government was unequivocal that Assad's future was assured in the country led by his family since 1970.

“This is a red line. If some people think we are coming here to give them the keys of Damascus they are wrong,” said Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad, echoing the language U.S. President Barack

Obama used to describe a chemical weapons attack in Syria.

In Syria, the war continued as if there were no effort to stop it—gunfire and shelling in Homs, between Assad's forces and rebels, and between the al-Qaida-linked militants and Kurdish fighters, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The blockaded districts of Homs came under intense fire that activists blamed on the government, calling into question how any deals reached in remote Switzerland could be implemented or verified in a chaotic civil war with dozens of players that began as a largely peaceful uprising against Assad. More than 130,000 people have

died in less than three years, and millions of Syrians have fled their homes.

Brahimi acknowledged that the agreement for Homs fell short of his hope to send a humanitarian aid convoy to the city. But, he said, “to bring Syria out of the ditch in which it has fallen will take time.”

There have been a number of short-lived, local truces reached between opposition-held towns and government forces in recent months that, including in Moadamiyeh, a sprawling rebel-held community west of Damascus, where about 5,000 residents were allowed to evacuate in the fall.

Monzer Akbik, an opposition spokesman, said the coalition

was still determined to stay for the political talks set to begin Monday despite accusing the government of stalling.

“They were sidestepping some issues and saying they want to refer back to Damascus for answers. It is clear to us that the regime delegation is not in charge of its own decisions,” Akbik said.

Both sides claim to represent the Syrian people.

The Western-backed opposition, made up largely of exiled Syrians, says Assad has lost legitimacy and can no longer lead a country after unleashing the military on largely peaceful protests nearly three years ago. They say Assad is being propped up by aid, weapons and

fighters from Iran and Russia.

The government says the rebellion is rife with terrorists and that Assad is the only person able to end the fighting, blaming the West and Gulf states—especially Saudi Arabia—of turning the country into an al-Qaida haven.

Homs was considered a promising place to start the negotiations.

The city was one of the first areas that plunged into armed conflict in 2011. Neighborhoods in the old city have been ravaged and emptied of residents following repeated government assaults to reclaim control from rebels. Activists say about 800 families are trapped, without regular access to food, medicine and basic necessities.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tunisia finally passes progressive constitution

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—After decades of dictatorship and two years of arguments and compromises, Tunisians on Sunday finally have a new constitution laying the foundations for a new democracy. The document is groundbreaking as one of the most progressive constitutions in the Arab world—and for the fact that it got written at all. It passed late Sunday by 200 votes out of 216 in the Muslim Mediterranean country that inspired uprisings across the region after overthrowing a dictator in 2011. The constitution enshrining freedom of religion and women's rights took two years to finish. During that period, the country was battered by high unemployment, protests, terrorist attacks, political assassinations and politicians who seemed more interested in posturing than finishing the charter.

Congo: More than 20 killed in arms depot blasts

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Congo says explosions from an arms depot near the diamond-mining hub of Mbuji-Mayi have killed more than 20 people. A U.N. statement says the explosions injured 50 people and destroyed many houses, causing “desolation” in the heart of Congo's third largest city. It says “official sources” determined that a lightning bolt on Friday hit the munitions depot of an army barracks outside Mbuji-Mayi and exploding shells hit homes some 6 kilometers (4 miles) away. U.N. mission chief Martin Kobler said he had instructed the U.N. office in Mbuji-Mayi to provide support to local authorities, and he commiserated with victims.

US officials probe illnesses on Caribbean cruise

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—U.S. health officials on Sunday boarded a cruise ship docked in the U.S. Virgin Islands to investigate an illness outbreak that has stricken at least 300 people with gastrointestinal symptoms including vomiting and diarrhea. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that 281, or nearly 10 percent, of the 3,050 passengers aboard Royal Caribbean International's Explorer of the Seas have reported getting sick during a Caribbean cruise that left Cape Liberty, New Jersey, on Tuesday. Twenty-two crew members also reported feeling ill. Janet Diaz, spokeswoman for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., said CDC representatives boarded the towering, 15-deck ship as it made a port call in St. Thomas, the main island of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Somali militant killed in missile attack

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A member of Somali rebel group al-Shabab was killed Sunday by a missile fired by a suspected drone, a rebel commander said, blaming the U.S. for the strike. Abu Mohamed told The Associated Press that Sahal Iskudhuq, a militant commander who was believed to be close to al-Shabab's top leader, was killed when his car was hit by a missile in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region. The attack took place in a village called Hawai, he said. A Somali intelligence official confirmed the attack, describing the victim as a “dangerous” militant. His driver was also killed in the attack, the official said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to reveal the information.



Protesters carry the coffin of Mikhail Zhiznevsky, 25, one of two protesters who died of gunshot wounds on Wednesday, during commemorate service in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday Jan. 26, 2014.

Killed protester mourned in Kiev amid crisis

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Thousands of Ukrainians chanted “Hero!” and sang the national anthem on Sunday, as a coffin carrying a protester who was killed in last week's clashes with police was carried through the streets of the capital, underscoring the rising tensions in the country's two-month political crisis.

Mikhail Zhiznevsky, 25, was one of three protesters who died in clashes Wednesday.

“He could have been my fiancé, but he died defending my future so that I will live in a dif-

ferent Ukraine,” said Nina Uvarov, a 25-year-old student from Kiev who wept as Zhiznevsky's body was carried out of St. Michael's Cathedral.

The opposition contends that Zhiznevsky and another activist were shot by police in an area where demonstrators had been throwing rocks and firebombs at riot police for several days. The government claims the two demonstrators were killed with hunting rifles, which they say police do not carry. The authorities would not say how the

third protester died.

Meanwhile, protests against President Viktor Yanukovich continued to engulf the country, and are now beginning to spread to central and eastern Ukraine, the leader's support base.

In Dnipropetrovsk, 390 kilometers (240 miles) southeast of Kiev on the Dnipro River, several hundred demonstrators tried to storm a local administration building, but police drove them back with water sprayed from a fire truck in subfreezing temperatures, the Interfax news

agency reported. In Zaporozhzhets, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) down river, demonstrators gathered outside the city administration building.

Meanwhile, in Kiev, protesters seized the Justice Ministry building Sunday night, adding another government building to the several already occupied by the opposition. After bursting into the Justice Ministry, which is several hundred meters away from the main protest camp, protesters began erecting barricades. They also tore up a portrait of Yanukovich.

Egypt set to have presidential elections first

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's interim leader on Sunday said the country will pick a president before parliament, a widely expected change in a political transition plan as public support for army chief and July coup leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi grows stronger. But Egypt remains dangerously

divided, as seen in clashes that killed at least 49 people a day earlier and militant attacks in the country's restive Sinai Peninsula that left several soldiers dead.

The decision follows weeks of deliberations with different political groups who had pushed for holding presidential,

not parliamentary elections first, as had been originally planned. Many argued that electing a president would be a panacea for the country's dangerously divided politics.

The transition plan, adopted after the ouster of Egypt's first freely elected president, Is-

lamist Mohammed Morsi, calls for both elections within six months of the adoption of a new constitution. The charter was passed on Jan. 18. The presidential election is now expected before the end of April, while a parliamentary vote should come before the end of July.

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a first, working-age people now make up the majority in U.S. households that rely on food stamps—a switch from a few years ago, when children and the elderly were the main recipients.

Some of the change is due to demographics, such as the trend toward having fewer children. But a slow economic recovery with high unemployment, stagnant wages and an increasing gulf between low-wage and high-skill jobs also plays a big role. It suggests that government spending on the \$80 billion-a-year food stamp program—twice what it cost five years ago—may not subside significantly anytime soon.

Food stamp participation since 1980 has grown the fastest among workers with some college training, a sign that the safety net has stretched further to cover America's former middle class, according to an analysis of government data for The Associated Press by economists at the University of Kentucky. Formally called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, or SNAP, the program now covers 1 in 7 Americans.

The findings coincide with the latest economic data showing workers' wages and salaries growing at the lowest rate relative to corporate profits in U.S. history.

President Barack Obama's

University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in income inequality. "Many of the U.S. jobs now being created are low- or minimum-wage—part-time or in areas such as retail or fast food—which means food stamp use will stay high for some time, even after unemployment improves."

The newer food stamp recipients include Maggie Barcellano, 25, of Austin, Texas. A high school graduate, she enrolled in college but didn't complete her nursing degree after she could no longer afford the tuition.

Hoping to boost her credentials, she went through emergency medical technician training with the Army National Guard last year but was unable to find work as a paramedic because of the additional certification and fees required. Barcellano, now the mother of a 3-year-old daughter, finally took a job as a home health aide, working six days a week at \$10 an hour. Struggling with the low income, she recently applied for food stamps with the help of the nonprofit Any Baby Can, to help save up for paramedic training.

"It's devastating," Barcellano said. "When I left for the Army



Maggie Barcellano plays with her three-year-old daughter, Zoe, at Lakeway City Park in Lakeway, Texas on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

AP

The new face of food stamps: WORKING-AGE AMERICANS

An overview of the food stamp program

Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are being targeted by politicians and by health advocates who want the federal program to restrict the ability to buy food with little nutritional value, which is currently allowed.

How food stamps can/can't be used

Not allowed

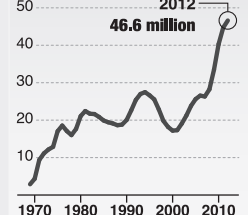
- Hot foods ready to eat or heated in store
- Lunch-counter items or foods to be eaten in store
- Any nonfood items
- Vitamins or medicines
- Pet food

Allowed

- Any other food or food product for human consumption
- Seeds and plants for use in home gardens to produce food

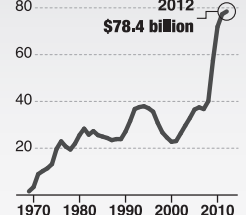
Program participants

Average number of participants per fiscal year, in millions



Program costs

Dollars per fiscal year, adjusted for inflation, in billions



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Eat Drink Politics, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

A brief history of food stamps



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State of the Union address Tuesday night is expected to focus in part on reducing income inequality, such as by raising the federal minimum wage. Congress, meanwhile, is debating cuts to food stamps, with Republicans including House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., wanting a \$4 billion-a-year reduction to an anti-poverty program that they say promotes dependency and abuse.

Economists say having a job may no longer be enough for self-sufficiency in today's economy.

"A low-wage job supplemented with food stamps is becoming more common for the working poor," said Timothy Smeeding, an economics professor at the

I was so motivated, thinking I was creating a situation where I could give my daughter what I know she deserves. But when I came back and basically found myself in the same situation, it was like it was all for naught."

Since 2009, more than 50 percent of U.S. households receiving food stamps have been adults ages 18 to 59, according to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The food stamp program defines non-elderly adults as anyone younger than 60.

As recently as 1998, the working-age share of food stamp households was at a low of 44 percent, before the dot-com bust and subsequent recessions in 2001 and 2007 pushed new enrollees into the program, according to the analysis by James Ziliak, director of the Center for Poverty Research at the University of Kentucky.

By education, about 28 percent of food stamp households are headed by a person with at least some college training, up from 8 percent in 1980. Among those with four-year college degrees, the share rose from 3 percent to 7 percent. High-school graduates head the bulk of food stamp households at 37 percent, up from 28 percent. In contrast, food stamp households headed by a high-school dropout have dropped by more than half, to 28 percent.

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The shifts in food stamp participation come amid broader changes to the economy such as automation, globalization and outsourcing, which have polarized the job market. Many good-paying jobs in areas such as manufacturing have disappeared, shrinking the American

middle class and bumping people with higher levels of education into lower-wage work.

An analysis Ziliak conducted for the AP finds that stagnant wages and income inequality play an increasing role in the growth of food stamp rolls.

Taking into account changing

family structure, higher unemployment and policy expansions to the food stamp program, the analysis shows that stagnant wages and income inequality explained just 3.5 percent of the change in food stamp enrollment from 1980 to 2011. But from 2000 to 2011, wages and inequality accounted for 13 percent of the increase.

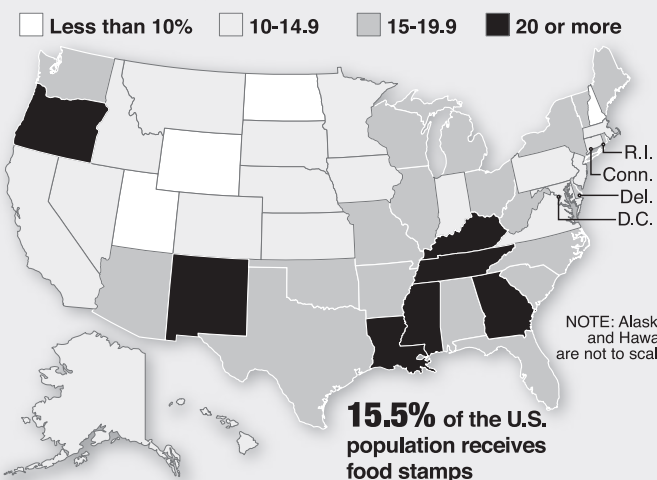
Several economists say food stamp rolls are likely to remain elevated for some time. Historically, there has been a lag before an improving unemployment rate leads to a substantial decline in food stamp rolls; the Congressional Budget Office has projected it could take 10 years.

"We do not expect income inequality stabilizing or declining in the absence of real wage growth or a significant reduction in unemployment and underemployment problems," said Ishwar Khatiwada, an economist for the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University who reviewed the Labor and Commerce departments' wage data.

Full- and part-time workers employed year-round saw the fastest growth in food stamp participation since 1980, making up 17 percent and 7 percent of households, respectively. In contrast, the share of food stamp households headed by an unemployed person has remained largely unchanged, at 53 percent. Part-year workers declined in food stamp share.

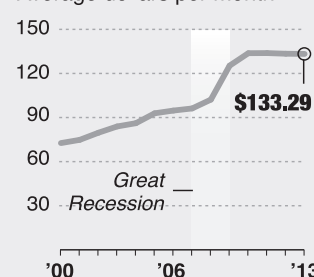
Who receives food stamps

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamps, helps low-income people buy food; percent of a state's population receiving SNAP, June 2013:



Benefit per person

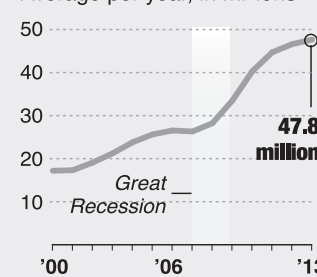
Average dollars per month



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Graphic: Judy Treible

People receiving SNAP

Average per year, in millions



NOTE: Data in fiscal years, 2013 data as of July 5
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Overdrive

Stylish new Infiniti Q50 less sporty, more luxurious

By TERRY BOX
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Infiniti aimed for the Autobahn with its new Q50 sport-sedan—and landed somewhere in a teeming, gleaming Dallas suburb.

Some coffeed-up Seattle techie-geek probably provided the telemetry.

Nonetheless, the oddly named Q50 looks pretty good amid the honking, screeching mainstream masses of BMW sedans, Honda Accords, new Ford Explorers and \$50,000 contractor pickups.

But Infiniti, the luxury division of Japanese automaker Nissan, wanted much more for the Q50, its first new vehicle after a total restructuring of the brand.

In a move to be viewed as more international, Infiniti transplanted its headquarters to Hong Kong. It began changing its model names and became a heavy sponsor of Formula 1 racing.

Quick, fellow Americans: Name one Formula 1 driver or the last F1 race you followed.

Oh, yeah, one other little item: Nissan hired Johan de Nysschen, the former CEO of Audi of America, to head the Infiniti division.

From this torrent of change emerged the Q50, a midsize near-luxury sedan that replaces the feisty G37 sedan, a gutsy, likable rear-driver always ready to pick a fight with a 3-series Bimmer.

I'm still trying to figure out where the 50 comes from in the Q's name, especially since the new car carries over the venerable 3.7-liter V-6 from the G37.

But everything else in the Q is new, including a revised platform that's two inches wider than the G37.

As a result, the Q looks meaner and more substantial than the somewhat clumsy G37.

A big, blacked-out, upright grille flanked by requisite scowling headlamps seemed very Infiniti—and fairly familiar.

Meanwhile, the sedan's slightly raised hood swept into a raked windshield and gracefully curved top.

To have any credibility in this segment, a sport sedan must try to measure up to the 3-series BMW, and the Q50 at least looks the part.

Gaze down its lightly sculpted sides, and you will see some 3- and 5-series BMW there.

A prominent character line zips high along the side, fading into the top of the back door. A second line picks up beneath

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Infiniti Q50S 3.7:

- **Type of vehicle:** Midsize, rear-wheel-drive, five-passenger sedan
- **Fuel economy:** 20 miles per gallon city, 29 highway
- **Weight:** 3,784 pounds
- **Engine:** 3.7-liter V-6 with 328 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque
- **Transmission:** Seven-speed automatic
- **Performance:** 0 to 60 mph in 5.2 seconds
- **Base price, excluding destination charge:** \$37,050
- **Price as tested:** \$53,530

SOURCES: Infiniti and Car and Driver

that one, and the two gave the Q's sides interesting tension.

Moreover, mine—being a Sport model—crouched on 19-inch, open-spoked gray wheels wrapped by 245/40 tires up front and 255/35s in back.

All of that holds together well. The running gear, though, remains a bit of a work in progress.

The Q50 is the first vehicle in the auto industry with so-called drive-by-wire steering, meaning a computer “translates” steering-wheel motions and sends signals to electric motors that do the actual turning.

If the system fails, a mechanical backup will allow the driver to maintain control, Infiniti says.

Although Infiniti spent 10 years to develop the system—and I'm not exactly sure why—it still needs work.

The Q's so-called Direct Adaptive Steering felt artificial and murky but was quicker than any sedan steering I can recall. In fact, most corners required no more than a quarter-revolution to get around.

But I thought the lightning-fast, disconnected steering compromised the Q's handling.

In “sport” mode, the well-sorted suspension delivered a taut ride and commendable body control in corners.

At moderate speeds, the rear-wheel-drive Q swung into curves pretty aggressively, maintaining good grip.

But I never felt totally comfortable at any real speed because I couldn't tell exactly what the front wheels were doing.

If I needed to correct my line, I sometimes over-compensated because of the hair-trigger steering.

And apparently it wasn't just me, the Denton hick. In look-

ing up acceleration numbers, I found this interesting observation in Car and Driver's test of the Q50.

“The car suffered a rare skid-pad spinout,” the magazine said. “The steering is atrocious.”

The car's 3.7-liter V-6 was plenty strong above 3,500 rpm but didn't pack the big punch you expect in a pricey \$53,530 sport sedan.

Though it has been around in one form or another for more than a decade, the 7,000-rpm engine lacks midrange torque.

It cranks out 328 horsepower but a rather modest 269 pound-feet of torque. More important, the torque doesn't peak until 5,200 rpm.

As a result, the 3,800-pound Q leaps away from stops because of good electronics and then goes kind of flat for a second or two before again showing some muscle.

With help from a solid, quick-shifting seven-speed automatic, the Q can hit 60 in a swift 5.2 seconds, but it never felt fast.

Also, the engine delivers average economy of 20 miles per gallon city, 29 on the highway. The faster, stronger BMW 335 is rated at 22 mpg in town and 32 on the highway.

At least the Q's interior looks stylish, and that's a big plus in this segment.

My Q got slathered in a light tan called “stone.” Like most Infinitis, its execution seemed a bit over the top.

The curvy black upper dashboard, for example, wrapped around a prominent center stack and an 8-inch touch screen that dominated the dash.

But everything was attractive and functioned well. The lower dash was light tan, matching seats that were stitched in smooth, flat-toned leather with unusual horizontal strips in their perforated centers.

Similarly, the door panels were black on top to match the dash, while the rest was light tan.

Leg- and head-room in back felt generous to me. But our Daily Planet videographer, Brian Elledge, who got a full serving of height in the genetic lunchroom, found it pretty snug.

Considering all of the changes washing through Infiniti, the Q50 turned out pretty well—an attractive, near-luxury sedan that is quick and mostly pleasant to drive.

But it establishes few benchmarks and continues to draw attention for its strange steering.

I think it's time for some tweaks.



The 2014 Infiniti Q50 is an all-new sedan, the brand's first after a major reorganization.

INFINITI/MCT

*In Humble
Gratitude*

†Nicolas
Quidachai
Muña



We, the family of the late †Nicolas Quidachai Muña would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our friends and relatives, from near and far, who have unselfishly come to be with us in so many ways expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraces us with love as we mourn the untimely passing of our dearly beloved father, grandfather, great grandfather and Great-great grandfather.

Your thoughts and prayers, love and support have helped ease the pain in the loss of our beloved. Our deepest appreciation to Fr. Issac M. Ayuyu and Fr. Rey Teclic for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial, the altar servers and Tan Ko Palacios for their assistance. Thank you to the Credo Domini Choir for serenading and to the St. Jude Choir for their beautiful hymns during our evening masses.

Our gratitude to the CHCC Doctors and Nurses and the Marianas Visiting Nurses for the care and compassion extended to our beloved.

Thank you to the Office of the Governor, Office of Veterans Affairs and the Saipan Municipal Council.

We appreciate the ministry of Mr. Rosiky Camacho and the untiring services of Ms. Myrna Malunga for the care of our beloved father.

To all of you who were with us during the nightly rosaries and masses, thank you very much from our hearts and we will always remember you in our prayers.

May God Bless Us All

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

Family of the late

†Nicolas Quidachai Muña and †Margarita Tudela Camacho Muña

Life & Style

At Grammys, Daft Punk, Pharrell dominate with 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Daft Punk and Pharrell Williams didn't only get lucky—they won in every category they were nominated in at the Grammy Awards, including the coveted album of the year and record of the year for the funk-electronic anthem "Get Lucky."

"Back when I was drinking and using, I used to imagine things that weren't there that were frightening. And then I got sober and two robots called me and asked me to make an album," said producer Paul Williams, who stood onstage with Daft Punk, who sported their signature helmets.

The French duo won four awards, including best dance/electronic album for "Random Access Memories" and pop duo/group performance for "Get Lucky," which earned Pharrell a trophy.

Daft Punk's retro, dance-flavored album not only featured ultra-hip Pharrell, but it also included music veterans Nile Rodgers and Giorgio Moroder. The 70s-sounding album matched the nostalgic mood of the Grammys, which featured many mellow performances and acts like Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Chicago and Stevie Wonder.

Pharrell, like Daft Punk, won four honors. He came into the night with seven nominations, but competed with himself in three categories. Williams, who has produced hits for Britney Spears and Jay Z in the past, won his first Grammy for non-classical producer of the year.

While the men dominated, Lorde was the princess of the Grammys: Her hit "Royals" won song of the year and best pop solo performance.

"Thank you everyone who has let this song explode because it's been mental," she said.

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis tied Williams and Daft Punk with four wins. They won best new artist and rap album for "The Heist," beating efforts from Kendrick Lamar, Jay Z, Kanye West and Drake.

"Wow, we're here on the stage right now," said Macklemore, thanking fans first, then his fiancée and team. "I want to say we made this album without a record label, we made it independently and we appreciate all the support."

The duo performed the gay acceptance hit "Same Love," and 33 same-sex and heterosexual couples got married in the middle in the performance as Queen Latifah officiated. Madonna joined in wearing an all-white suit and hat, and sang "Open Your Heart" and some of "Same Love" with Mary Lambert. Keith Urban cried and Katy Perry caught a bouquet during the performance, where Lewis' sister was among those tying the knot.

Macklemore & Lewis' wins,



Daft Punk arrives at the 56th annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in Los Angeles.

which include best rap song and rap performance for "Thrift Shop," came after the Grammy rap committee almost ousted the group from its categories. A source told The Associated Press that the rap committee rejected the duo, but that was later overruled by the general Grammy committee. The rap committee felt Macklemore & Lewis should qualify for the pop awards instead because of their massive success on Top 40 radio. The source, who attended the general Grammy meeting, spoke on the condition of anonymity because the meeting was private.

Beyonce kicked off the Grammy Awards with a steamy and smoky performance of "Drunk In Love." She started on a chair and then grinded in a revealing black outfit. Jay Z emerged in a fitted suit to rap his verse, and the couple—parents of little Blue Ivy—held hands and danced together.

Imagine Dragons and Kendrick Lamar, who left empty-handed, collaborated onstage to create an electrifying performance, as the acts sported all-white and went from rap song to rock song.

Robin Thicke performed with Chicago, singing the group's songs before going into "Blurred Lines," which energized the crowd. Thicke finished the performance singing on the floor.

Perry sang "Dark Horse" in an eerie forest with fire that mirrored the song's vibe, and John Legend and Taylor Swift—who whipped her head, and hair, back and forth—played pianos during their slow songs. Pink twirled in the air in her signature Cirque du Soleil-form.

Swift, who was nominated for album of the year, lost best country album in a surprise upset to rising singer-songwriter Kacey Musgraves.

"Oh my goodness. Oh my god. I can't even. I can't even," said a teary-eyed, but happy Musgraves, whose "Same Trailer Different Park" won the honor. "I got to make a record that I poured myself into and I'm so proud of."

The singer also beat Swift for best country song and was nominated for new artist.

Justin Timberlake, who wasn't up for any of the major awards but had seven nods, didn't make an appearance at

the awards show. He won three trophies, including best R&B song for "Pusher Love Girl" and music video for "Suit & Tie," which also earned Jay Z a Grammy. Jay Z and Timberlake also won best rap/sung collaboration for "Holy Grail."

"I want to thank God—I mean a little bit for this award—but mostly for all the universe for conspiring and putting that beautiful light of a young lady in my life," Jay Z said, looking at Beyonce. "I want to tell Blue that, look, 'Daddy got a gold sippy cup for you.'"

Bruno Mars, who will perform at the Super Bowl halftime show next week, won best pop vocal album with his sophomore release, "Unorthodox Jukebox."

"Ma, I know you're watching. I hope you're smiling. I love you very much," said Mars, remembering his mother, who passed away last year. Mars' father attended the awards show.

Paul McCartney, engineer Bob Ludwig and gospel singer Tye Tribett were double winners. Imagine Dragons and Rihanna also picked up trophies.

WINNERS' LIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Winners in selected categories at the 56th annual Grammy Awards announced Sunday during ceremonies at the Nokia Theatre and Staples Center:

- **Album of the year:** "Random Access Memories," Daft Punk.
- **Record of the year:** "Get Lucky," Daft Punk with Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers.
- **Song of the year:** "Royals," Lorde.
- **New artist:** Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.
- **Pop solo performance:** "Royals," Lorde.
- **Pop vocal album:** "Unorthodox Jukebox," Bruno Mars
- **Pop/duo group performance:** "Get Lucky," Daft Punk with Pharrell and Nile Rodgers.
- **Rap/sung collaboration:** "Holy Grail," Jay Z with Justin Timberlake.
- **Rock song:** "Cut Me Some Slack," Paul McCartney, Dave Grohl, Krist Novoselic and Pat Smear.
- **Country album:** "Same Trailer Different Park," Kacey Musgraves.
- **Traditional pop vocal album:** "To Be Loved," Michael Buble.
- **Rap performance:** "Thrift Shop," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis featuring Wanz.
- **Rap song:** "Thrift Shop," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis featuring Wanz.
- **Rap album:** "The Heist," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.
- **R&B performance:** "Something," Snarky Puppy with Lalah Hathaway.
- **Traditional R&B performance:** "Please Come Home," Gary Clark Jr.
- **R&B song:** "Pusher Love Girl," James Fauntleroy, Jerome Harmon, Timothy Mosley and Justin Timberlake.
- **R&B album:** "Girl on Fire," Alicia Keys.
- **Urban contemporary album:** "Unapologetic," Rihanna.
- **Rock performance:** "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons.
- **Rock album:** "Celebration Day," Led Zeppelin.
- **Hard rock/metal performance:** "God is Dead," Black Sabbath.
- **Alternative music album:** "Modern Vampires of the City," Vampire Weekend.
- **Dance recording:** "Clarity," Zedd featuring Foxes.
- **Dance/electronic album:** "Random Access Memories," Daft Punk.
- **Producer of the year, non-classical:** Pharrell Williams.
- **Latin pop album:** "Vida," Draco Rosa
- **Latin rock, urban or alternative album:** "Treinta Dias," La Santa Cecilia.
- **Latin jazz album:** "Song for Maura," Paquito D'Rivera and Trio Corrente.
- **Tropical Latin album:** "Pacific Mambo Orchestra," Pacific Mambo Orchestra.
- **Country solo performance:** "Wagon Wheel," Darius Rucker.
- **Country duo/group performance:** "From This Valley," The Civil Wars.
- **Country song:** "Merry Go 'Round," Kacey Musgraves, Shane McAnally and Josh Osbourne.
- **Gospel song:** "If He Did It Before ... Same God (Live)," Tye Tribbett
- **Gospel album:** "Greater Than (Live)," Tye Tribbett.
- **Blues album:** "Get Up!," Ben Harper with Charlie Musselwhite.
- **Folk album:** "My Favorite Picture of You," Guy Clark.
- **Americana album:** "Old Yellow Moon," Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell.
- **Bluegrass album:** "The Streets of Baltimore," Del McCoury Band.
- **Reggae album:** "Ziggy Marley in Concert," Ziggy Marley.
- **World music album:** "Live: Singing for Peace Around the World," Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and "Savor Flamenco," Gypsy Kings (tie).
- **Children's album:** "Throw a Penny in the Wishing Well," Jennifer Gasoi.
- **Spoken word album:** "America Again: Re-Becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't," Stephen Colbert.
- **Comedy album:** "Calm Down Gurr!," Kathy Griffin.
- **New age album:** "Love's River," Laura Sullivan.
- **Jazz vocal album:** "Liquid Spirit," Gregory Porter.
- **Jazz instrumental album:** "Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue," Terri Lyne Carrington.
- **Large jazz ensemble album:** "Night in Calisia," Randy Brecker, Wlodek Pawlik Trio and Kalisz Philharmonic.
- **Pop instrumental album:** "Steppin' Out," Herb Alpert.
- **Compilation soundtrack album:** "Sound City: Real to Reel," Dave Grohl and various artists, Butch Vig.
- **Score soundtrack album:** "Skyfall," Thomas Newman, composer.
- **Song written for visual media:** "Skyfall," Adele and Paul Epworth.
- **Musical theater album:** "Kinky Boots," Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter, Stark Sands, Sammy James Jr., Stephen Oremus and William Wittman.
- **Producer of the year, classical:** David Frost.
- **Instrumental composition:** "Pensamientos for Solo Alto Saxophone and Chamber Orchestra," Clare Fischer.
- **Orchestral performance:** "Sibelius: Symphonies Nos. 1 & 4," Osmo Vanska, conductor.
- **Opera recording:** "Ades: The Tempest," Thomas Ades, Simon Keenlyside, Isabel Leonard, Audrey Luna, Alan Oke, Jay David Saks.
- **Choral performance:** "Part: Adam's Lament," Tonu Kaljuste, conductor.
- **Short-form music video:** "Suit & Tie," Justin Timberlake featuring Jay Z, David Fincher, Timory King.
- **Long-form music video:** "Live Kisses," Paul McCartney, Jonas Akerlund, Violaine Etienne, Aron Levin and Scott Rodger.
- **Historical album:** "The Complete Sussex and Columbia Albums" of Bill Withers, Leo Sacks, Joseph M. Palmaccio, Tom Ruff and Mark Wilder, and "Charlie is My Darling," Teri Landi, Andrew Loog Oldham, Steve Rosenthal and Bob Ludwig.

‘Whiplash’ wins audience, jury awards at Sundance

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—The dramatic story of a drummer who pursues excellence at all costs won top honors at the Sundance Film Festival.

“Whiplash” collected both audience and jury prizes for American dramatic films Saturday at the festival’s awards ceremony.

The musical drama by writer-director Damien Chazelle opened the independent film showcase last week and rode a wave of positive buzz throughout the 10-day event.

Chazelle made his Sundance debut last year with a short version of “Whiplash” intended to gain financial support for the feature-length film. The feature stars 26-year-old Miles Teller as an aspiring jazz drummer and veteran actor J.K. Simmons as his unfor-



Damien Chazelle, director of “Whiplash,” accepts the Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic award for his film during the 2014 Sundance Film Festival Awards Ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014, in Park City, Utah.

giving instructor.

Chazelle thanked his actors “who really made this movie work.” The 28-year-old film-

maker drew on his personal experiences as a member of a high school jazz band as inspiration for the film.

The documentary “Rich Hill,” a coming-of-age story about the inhabitants of a tiny town in Missouri, won the jury award for U.S. documentary. The American documentary about music’s healing effects on dementia, “Alive Inside: A Story of Music & Memory,” won the audience award.

Actors Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally hosted the ceremony at the Basin Recreation Fieldhouse in Park City, Utah. The married couple opened with a racy, comedic introduction about how they enjoy the film festival.

“Our frenzied coitus is the stuff of legend,” Mullally said, “but really there’s no place we’d rather get our swerve on than right here in Park City.”

The 30th Sundance Film Festival wraps on Sunday.

Ex-Marlboro Man dies from smoking-related disease

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eric Lawson, a working actor who portrayed the Marlboro Man in cigarette ads during the late 1970s, has died. He was 72.

Lawson’s wife, Susan Lawson, said Sunday that her husband

died Jan. 10 at his California home. The cause was respiratory failure due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD.

The ruggedly handsome Lawson portrayed the smoking cowboy in Marlboro print

ads from 1978 to 1981. He also had bit parts in such TV shows as “Baretta” and “Charlie’s Angels” before injuries sustained on the set of a Western film ended his acting career.

As a smoker since age 14, Lawson

later appeared in an anti-smoking commercial that parodied the Marlboro Man and an “Entertainment Tonight” segment to discuss the negative effects of smoking.

He is also survived by six children.

Justin Bieber relaxing in Panama after Florida scrape

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Pop star Justin Bieber is relaxing at the beach in Panama after being charged in Florida with driving under the influence.

Panamanian radio and television host Eddy Vasquez was filming a show at the Pacific Coast resort in Punta Chame when he spotted Bieber and his entourage walking on the beach. He and his crew took pictures of the singer and his companions, who got on personal watercraft and traveled to a nearby island.

Police in Miami Beach said they arrested Bieber smelling of alcohol after officers saw him drag-racing before dawn Thursday, with his yellow Lamborghini traveling at nearly twice the speed limit.



Justin Bieber, second right, and Chantel Jeffries, far left, walk with unidentified people on a beach in Punta Chame, Panama, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014.

‘Ride Along’ runs over ‘I, Frankenstein’

NEW YORK (AP)—The Kevin Hart comedy “Ride Along” continued to speed through a typically quiet box-office frame, while the monster thriller “I, Frankenstein” couldn’t be roused from the dead.

Universal’s buddy cop comedy “Ride Along,” co-starring Ice Cube, cruised to the top of the box office again, taking in \$21.2 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The film last week set a January debut record, with \$48.6 million over the three-day holiday weekend.

For the second weekend in a row, Universal claimed No. 1 and No. 2 at the box office, with the Afghanistan war film “Lone Survivor” earning \$12.6 million in its fifth week. With a cumulative total of \$93.6 million, the relatively inexpensive “Lone Survivor,” starring Mark Wahlberg, will soon cross the \$100

million mark.

“I, Frankenstein” had a sizable budget, estimated at \$65 million, yet opened with just \$8.3 million. Starring a beefed-up Aaron Eckhart as Mary Shelley’s famous monster in a modern-day setting, the 3-D

Two family films trailed “Ride Along” and “Lone Survivor.” The animated squirrel comedy “The Nut Job” made \$12.3 million in its second week for Open Road Films. Disney’s juggernaut “Frozen” added \$9 million for a 10-week domestic

1. “**Ride Along**,” \$21.2 million (\$750,000 international).
2. “**Lone Survivor**,” \$12.6 million (\$275,000 international).
3. “**The Nut Job**,” \$12.3 million.
4. “**Frozen**,” \$9 million (\$20.2 million international).
5. “**Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit**,” \$8.8 million (\$14.3 million international).
6. “**I, Frankenstein**,” \$8.3 million (\$13 million international).
7. “**American Hustle**,” \$7.1 million (\$5 million international).
8. “**August: Osage County**,” \$5 million (\$1.8 million international).
9. “**The Wolf of Wall Street**,” \$5 million (\$31 million international).
10. “**Devil’s Due**,” \$2.8 million (\$2.2 million international).

film wasn’t screened for critics and came into the weekend with little buzz. Lakeshore Entertainment financed the film, which was distributed by Lionsgate.

With \$13 million in overseas box office, “I, Frankenstein” could scare up better business internationally.

total of \$347.8 million.

Several Oscar candidates sought to capitalize on their recent best-picture nominations. Expanding by a few hundred theaters were “Dallas Buyers Club” (\$2 million, \$20.4 million total), “12 Years a Slave” (\$2 million, \$45.5 million total),

Dad looking to relocate hates to leave needy parents behind

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My two children and I have lived with my parents for a few years because I had some health problems. Now that I am healthy again, I’m ready to return to work and move to a new home, but I am encountering severe resistance from my parents.

As I have recovered, our situation has gone from my parents helping me to my assuming the majority of the household responsibilities. My parents say they know I want to go back to work and know it will be good for me to be independent, but because of their own health concerns they need me to stay. I have always felt a strong responsibility toward my family, but I know that not having a home to call our own limits the personal growth of my children and me.

I have been offered a great job in another state that would allow me to provide well for my children, but I feel crushing guilt for even considering leaving my parents to fend for themselves. I know this will be a life-changing decision for all of us, so please give me an objective point of view.

DAD TORN IN TWO DIRECTIONS IN TEXAS

DEAR DAD: On an emotional level, of course your leaving will be traumatic for your parents. They will miss you and the children and all the activity in the house they have become used to. Also, someone may have to assume the household chores that you have been taking care of.

If you accept this job—and in my opinion you should if you can’t find one that pays as well closer to your parents—perhaps you could subsidize a housekeeper, a cleaning company or someone to help with the yard work a few times a month.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to “Sean” for five years. I am 27, stand 5 feet 7 inches tall and weigh 120 pounds. Sean is constantly pushing me to exercise more, and he comments on my thighs and stomach a lot. He tells me it’s not a weight issue, but I need to “work off some fat and gain more muscle.” He wasn’t like this when we got married.

I love my body, and I know I’m not fat or overweight. I walk 4 miles round trip to work. My entire workday is spent on my feet, walking or running. I get plenty of exercise, and I’m healthy and active.

This is really hurting my confidence. It bothers me to hear that someone I love thinks my normal body is unattractive because of barely there “fat.” I don’t know what gave Sean this idea. How do I deal with it?

JUST RIGHT IN ARIZONA

DEAR JUST RIGHT: The kind of body your husband would like you to have seems more descriptive of a skinny teenager than a healthy young woman. Is he a body builder or a gym rat? You deal with it by asking your husband WHY he thinks your normal body is unattractive, listen carefully to his response and, if necessary, run it by your doctor.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering if a woman can be considered engaged to a man if she is still married to another man, but separated?

I have a friend who has been separated from her husband for two years. They live apart, but not “legally.” Can she be considered engaged? Wouldn’t her ring be a promise ring and not an engagement ring? Please help me clear up this confusion.

CONFOUNDED IN WEST VIRGINIA

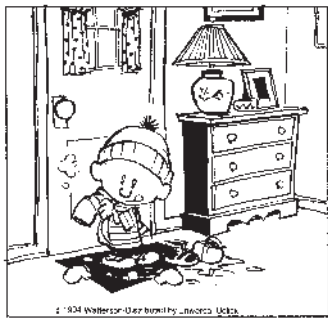
DEAR CONFOUNDED: To declare oneself engaged while legally married to another person does appear to be premature. However, your friend can call herself whatever she wants if it pleases her. The same is true for what she calls the rock she’s wearing. If you value her friendship, you’ll let it slide and don’t contradict her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

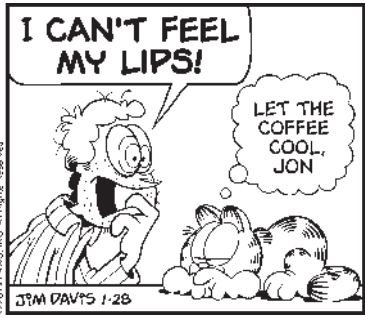
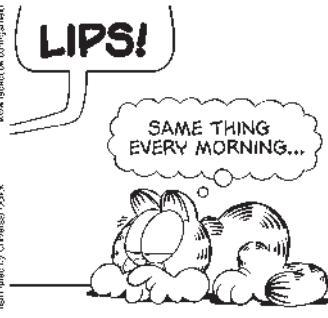
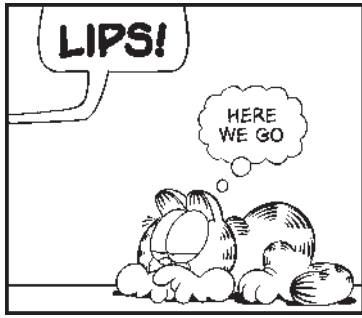


By Bill Waterson



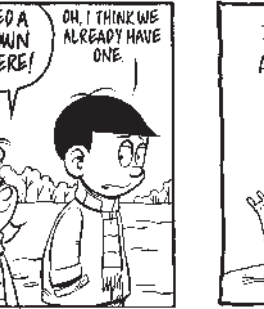
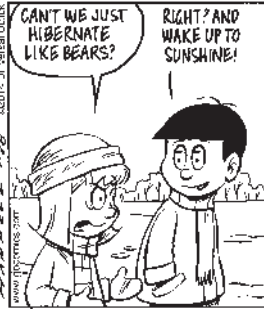
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



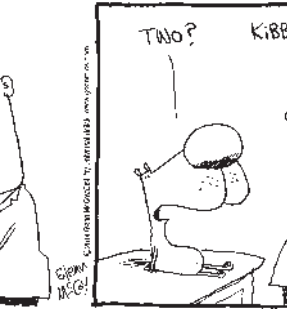
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Fraction of a joule 38 Choir's rendition 41 Hearty brew 42 Pair on stage 45 Trickster Norse god 46 Cougar's activity? 48 Valhalla VIP 49 Mischievous kid 50 Satanic 51 Couturier 52 CBS logo 53 Social engagement 1 Long story

DOWN 2 Ringlet 3 On 4 Present topper 5 Senescence 6 Repair 7 "Married ... With Children" mom 8 Participate in an alley game 9 Declare positively 10 Equipment 11 Bohemian 16 Cam-bodia neighbor 20 Scale member 21 Harry Potter's creator 22 "Family Guy" daughter 23 Bankroll 24 Praise in verse 25 Aries 26 Clampett patriarch 27 Altar affirmative 28 Shade provider 29 Coloring agent 31 Irritate 34 Scot's chapeau 35 Got bigger 37 Run off to say 27-Down 38 Create a furrow 39 Pop 40 Related 41 Host 42 Prima donna 43 Inch or quart 44 Look lustily 46 Slapstick missile 47 Started

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariel Winter, 16; Elijah Wood, 33; Sarah McLachlan, 46; Frank Darabont, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take a methodical approach to both professional and personal situations involving money, contracts, health and your future. Strive for stability and security, and hang on to what you have. Building a strong base will ensure that you will not face setbacks due to excess or impulsive acts that have the potential to stand between you and your goals. Your numbers are 4, 13, 22, 26, 35, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Wait to see what others do and say. Get promises in writing and don't offer something you may not be able to honor. An unpredictable situation is best left alone until you feel safe and secure regarding the outcome.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take action and take control. Show how passionate you feel about the things you do and the people you care about most, and you will receive greater opportunity to prove how valuable you are. Put your best foot forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look closely at your current position and you will find ways to improve what you do or what you receive for your time and effort. Step up the pace and keep everyone important abreast of the situation, and you will benefit.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take on a project that is different from anything you have done in the past. Explore new avenues and meet new people. Up your game

and appeal to others, and your personal gain will increase. Love is highlighted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Voice your opinion and make a difference. A change of scenery or hanging out with people from unusual backgrounds will open up a host of new opportunities. Expect someone to show disdain or jealousy. Don't fuel the fire; massage the situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy people, places and hobbies that have brought you joy in the past. Interacting with someone you love will enhance your personal life. Children will play a role in a decision you must make. Be true to your word and your heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Try not to get caught up in inevitable personal situations. Go about your business and be as productive as possible with regard to research, educational pursuits and exploring new connections. Don't give in to emotional blackmail or unprofessional tactics.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll accomplish more if you get out and do things outside your home base. Business or promotional trips will be fruitful and take your mind off a personal matter. A lifestyle change will do you good. Look at your options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your head clear and your communication honest and straightforward. Move quickly and precisely to get your point across and make your position clear. Avoid spending your own money. Protect your heart and your reputation.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Change things up a bit. Do the unexpected and you will catch someone trying to give you a hard time. Offer a suggestion to someone you love and you will find out exactly where you stand and how to proceed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are overdue for a change. A new source of income will buy you freedom to follow a dream. Don't share too many of your ideas or someone is likely to pursue and take credit for a concept that is rightfully yours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show your willingness to get along and to be a contributor. What you offer will lead to a contract, settlement or investment that will help you out financially. A love relationship appears to have a much brighter future than you anticipated.

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, determined and loyal. You are industrious and goal-oriented.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FAMOUS MICHAELS Solution: 12 letters

1/28

Adams, Andretti, Angarano, Bay, Beck, Bergin, Bolton, Boyd, Brown, Buble, Cera, Chabon, Cole, Cretu, Damian, Dorn, Douglas, Duncan, Fox, Hall, Hill, Jackson, Jagger, Jordan, Keaton, Kors, Landon, Learned, Mann, McDonald, Moore, Muhney, Oher, Owen, Pitt, Riley, Rooker, Schumacher, Shanks, Sheen, Smith, Sorrentino, Trevino, Vartan, Vick, Warren, Wincott

Yesterday's Answer: Friendship

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Heat win Finals rematch, top Spurs, 113-101

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade came off the bench for the first time in more than six years. The Larry O'Brien Trophy wasn't at stake. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich sported a casual, no-tie look.

An NBA Finals rematch, yes. An NBA Finals replay, it was not. Either way, it still wound up going how the Miami Heat wanted.

Chris Bosh scored 24 points on 9 for 10 shooting—making him 17 for his last 18 from the floor—and LeBron James added 18 points as the Heat rolled past the San Antonio Spurs 113-101 on Sunday, never trailing and leading by as many as 29 points along the way.

“Did that feel like The Finals? No, it did not feel like The Finals,” is how Heat coach Erik Spoelstra opened his postgame remarks, without anyone even asking the question.

Mario Chalmers scored 16 points for Miami, which used Wade as a reserve for the first time since Jan. 6, 2008. Wade—an All-Star starter again this season—had not played in any of Miami's most recent four games while dealing with ongoing knee rehabilitation, and finished with eight points and five assists in 24 minutes.

Wade said not starting was his idea, and seemed generally pleased with his first game in nine days.

“I’ve only had one practice in a while,” Wade said. “Team was in a good groove. I wanted to work my way into my rhythm.”

Michael Beasley scored 12, Norris Cole scored 11 and Ray Allen added 10 for Miami (32-12). Spoelstra said afterward that nothing is set in stone about Wade's status going forward.

“It was just good to have him out there,” Spoelstra said.

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 23 points. Boris Diaw added 15, Marco Belinelli scored 12 and Tony Parker finished with 11 for the Spurs, who were without three players who played key roles in last year's Finals. Kawhi Leonard (hand), Danny Green (hand) and Tiago Splitter (shoulder) all remain sidelined for San Antonio (33-11), which lost for just the fourth time in 20 road games.

“Everybody has injuries. You

have to deal with them during the season,” said Parker, who jammed a finger Sunday but didn't seem concerned. “Obviously, it's hurting us but they're going to come back. We just have to keep pushing and try to get better.”

The game was tied at 44 late in the first half. Before long, it was a runaway.

Miami closed the second quarter with a 14-6 spurt, outscored San Antonio 33-21 in the third and opened the fourth on a 13-4 run, just in case there was any remaining doubt, which hardly seems likely.

Add it up, and over a 20-minute stretch the two-time defending champs outscored the Spurs 60-31.

“They kind of got in a comfort zone,” Duncan said. “Obviously a very good team and very good at what they do, just didn't get them off their game at all.”

Sunday's game was the first official meeting between the teams since Miami won Game 7 of last season's Finals. San Antonio visited Miami in the preseason, a night where the title rematch was the only thing really worth talking about, but at least the Spurs didn't have to see Miami's third championship banner hanging from the rafters of AmericanAirlines Arena that night.

“Obviously, it brought back memories, for sure,” James said. “But it's a regular-season game where both teams were trying to get better.”

The third quarter decided just about everything. Bosh was 4 for 4 from the field, on the way to a 12-point quarter. Miami outrebounded San Antonio 14-3 in the period, with James and Cole each grabbing one more rebound than the entire Spurs roster did collectively.

“It's a bad combination when we're not disciplined enough defensively and they're making shots,” Popovich said. “They shot it really well—came with their ‘A’ game.”

Warriors 103, Trail Blazers 88

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry had 38 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and Golden State used a smothering defense to beat Portland.

The newly elected All-Star starting point guard, wearing



Miami Heat's Chris Andersen (11) forces San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili (20) to pass the ball off during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014.

shiny gold shoes, shot 13 of 23 from the floor to carry the offensive load. The Warriors did it all on defense, too, building a 22-point lead midway through the fourth quarter to put the game out of reach.

Golden State outshot Portland 41.8 percent to 33.7 percent and forced 15 turnovers while committing nine.

Damian Lillard had 16 points and four assists, and Wesley Matthews scored 21 for the Blazers, who had a quick turnaround after beating Minnesota in Portland on Saturday night. It was a season low in points and shooting percentage and it tied the largest margin of defeat for Portland, which entered averaging an NBA-best 109.5 points.

Nets 85, Celtics 79

In Boston, Andray Blatche scored 17 points to lead Brooklyn to victory in the first visit by Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett to Boston since they were traded last July.

The cornerstones of the Celtics' 2008 championship team received video tributes early in the game with career highlights shown on the scoreboard. They didn't have any highlights on the court until Garnett stole the ball

from Rajon Rondo and dribbled ahead of the field for a layup that ended Boston's last threat.

That put the Nets ahead 82-77 with 20 seconds left and secured their 10th win in 11 games.

The Celtics, losing for the 17th time in 20 games, were led by Brandon Bass with 17 points and Rondo with 13 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Pierce and Garnett scored just six points each.

Knicks 110, Lakers 103

In New York, Carmelo Anthony followed his 62-point game with 35 more, and New York beat Los Angeles.

Anthony finished with two points fewer than he had at halftime of his record-setting night Friday, but he scored six straight New York points down the stretch after the Lakers had cut the Knicks' lead to two with just over 5 minutes left.

And he had plenty of help as the Knicks won their second straight following a five-game losing streak.

Raymond Felton scored 20 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 18 and J.R. Smith 16 for the Knicks. Tyson Chandler had 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Jodie Meeks scored 24 points

for the Lakers. Pau Gasol had 20 points and 13 rebounds as the Lakers dropped their fourth straight to finish 2-5 on their Grammy Awards trip.

Nuggets 125, Kings 117

In Sacramento, Calif., Ty Lawson scored 27 points, Wilson Chandler had 20 and Denver defeated short-handed Sacramento for its second straight victory.

The Nuggets went ahead late in the third quarter and never trailed again. Denver was coming off a 109-96 home win Saturday night over Indiana, which has the best record in the NBA.

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points for the Kings, who have dropped three straight and five of six. They played their second straight game without leading scorers DeMarcus Cousins (ankle sprain) and Rudy Gay (Achilles strain). The two combine for nearly 43 points per game.

Pelicans 100, Magic 92

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 22 points, a career-high 19 rebounds and seven blocked shots, and New Orleans beat Orlando to win its second straight game.

Davis' statistical line marked the first time since the franchise

was founded as the Hornets in Charlotte in 1988 that a player on the club had that many points, rebounds and blocks in the same game.

Tyreke Evans scored 13 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter to keep struggling Orlando at bay.

Led by Arron Affalo's 25 points, the Magic twice got as close as three points late in the fourth quarter.

Brian Roberts had 15 points and Eric Gordon 14 for the Pelicans.

Victor Oladipo 18 points and five steals for Orlando, while Tobias Harris added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Suns 99, Cavaliers 90

In Cleveland, Markieff Morris scored 27 points and Phoenix rallied from an 18-point half-time deficit to defeat Cleveland.

The Suns turned in a dominant second half, outscoring the Cavaliers 56-29. Channing Frye finished with 16 points, including four 3-pointers after half-time, and Goran Dragic scored 15 to help Phoenix pull off the comeback on the first stop of a four-game road trip.

The Cavaliers, who led by 20 late in the second quarter, fell to 1-3 on a five-game homestand considered crucial to their chances of staying in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Kyrie Irving scored 24 points and Luol Deng added 18 for Cleveland.

Mavericks 116, Pistons 106

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points and Devin Harris had a season-high 14 for the second straight game to carry Dallas past Detroit.

Nowitzki was 10 of 16 from the field in his second straight game wearing a sleeve on his sore left knee after sitting out a loss in Toronto. It's not the knee that required surgery and sidelined him the first 27 games last season.

Harris scored five straight points in the final minute of the third quarter to break a 79-all tie. His 3-pointer early in the fourth capped a 15-2 run for a 94-81 Dallas lead.

Brandon Jennings had 26 points and seven assists to lead the Pistons, who lost their fourth straight. Josh Smith had 25 points and eight rebounds.

Garza, Brewers reach \$50M, 4-year deal

MILWAUKEE (AP)—After committing \$50 million to free agent Matt Garza, the Milwaukee Brewers are feeling much better about their pitching staff.

Garza completed a four-year contract with Milwaukee on Sunday, strengthening the top of the rotation and boosting the Brewers' hopes following a disappointing season.

The team made the announcement, saying the contract included a vesting option for 2018. Earlier in the afternoon,

team owner Mark Attanasio was on stage during a question-and-answer session at a fan event and said a deal was in place.

General manager Doug Melvin called Garza an “established, top-of-the-rotation pitcher.”

“The thing about signing Matt now, it gives us a lot more depth and, as you know, during a baseball season, you never use five starters,” Melvin said. “So, just kind of wait and see how spring training unfolds, and always having the available depth is important to stay in a 162-game season.”

A person familiar with the negotiations, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the contract, told The Associated Press the deal was worth \$50 million with an extra \$1 million per year available in reasonable performance bonuses for a starter.

The 30-year-old righty went 10-6 with a 3.82 ERA last season for the Chicago Cubs and Texas Rangers. He missed most of the first two months while recovering from an injury that affected his side and back.

Garza will join Yovani Gal-

lardo and Kyle Lohse as Milwaukee's top starters. He is 67-67 with a 3.84 ERA in eight seasons with Minnesota, Tampa Bay, the Cubs and Texas.

The Brewers ranked ninth in the National League with a 3.84 ERA last season, when they finished fourth in the NL Central at 74-88.

Garza was looking forward to pitching—and hitting—in the NL Central again. “It's fun. I like the Central, I like pitching in the Central,” he said on a conference call. “I like swinging the bat in the big parks.”

The move also adds depth to Milwaukee's staff and puts less pressure on young pitchers such as Wily Peralta and Tyler Thornburg at the back end of the rotation.

Milwaukee also has Marco Estrada and Johnny Hellweg as rotation options, and lefty Will Smith was acquired from Kansas City in December for outfielder Norichika Aoki.

“We've said now for a couple of years that we're focusing on pitching and pitching depth,” Attanasio told reporters. “You can never have enough pitching depth, and I would argue we have as much pitching depth as we've had (in) my 10

seasons of ownership.”

Garza was the MVP of the 2008 AL championship series for Tampa Bay, beating Boston twice. He also has thrown the only no-hitter in Rays history, on July 26, 2010, against Detroit.

His agreement with Milwaukee was reported last week—but the Brewers were a bit of a surprise suitor for Garza's services. The team issued a statement Thursday that it was in talks with Garza but hadn't reached a deal at that point.

“These deals can go to the 11th hour and then not come together,” Attanasio said. “So you don't know until you know.”

Stallings rallies from 3 behind to win at Torrey



SAN DIEGO (AP)—Scott Stallings was in the 18th fairway at Torrey Pines, 222 yards from the front of the green, needing a birdie to give himself a shot at outright victory Sunday in the Farmers Insurance Open. That's when his caddie told him, "Let's see what you've got."

Above all, he had experience.

One year and one week ago, Stallings was in a similar situation at the Humana Challenge. He hit a 6-iron from 220 yards, forgetting to account for a hanging lie until the ball sailed left and bounded into the water, the final mistake on a day he blew a five-shot lead.

He didn't make the same mistake twice.

Stallings hammered a 4-iron that narrowly cleared the water and set up two putts from 40 feet for a birdie. It gave him a 4-under 68 and a one-shot lead that turned into a victory when no one could catch him.

"I don't think one would happen without the other," Stallings said. "I actually thought about 18 at Humana the whole time on 18 today. Not that I was like, 'Oh, don't hit it in the water.' But it was, 'Just make sure you pay attention to everything that's going on.'"

His final birdie capped off a wild day at Torrey Pines, one that didn't include Tiger Woods or Phil Mickelson for the first time in two decades. Nine players had a share of the lead at one point. Eight players still had a reasonable chance in the final hour.

Stallings emerged the winner with one big shot, and now he's headed back to the Masters.

K.J. Choi had the best score of the week on the South Course with a 66 and was among five players who tied for second. The pins were set up in favorable positions for birdies, making the course



Scott Stallings holds the trophy after winning the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, in San Diego.

play the easiest it had all week.

But that didn't make it easy—not for Gary Woodland, Jordan Spieth, Pat Perez and so many others who squandered a good chance to win.

Woodland appeared to have the best chance to catch Stallings. He was one shot behind—with plenty of length to reach the 18th in two—until he chose fairway metal off the tee on No. 17 and hooked it into the canyon. He felt he had to make his 45-foot par putt to have any chance, and three-putted for double bogey. Woodland, who had a one-shot lead going into the final round, missed an easy birdie attempt on the 18th and closed with a 74.

"This will be hard to swal-

low," Woodland said. "I felt like I kind of gave one away today."

Marc Leishman of Australia had the last chance to force a playoff, but his drive on the 18th went well right and bounced off the cart path and a fan. He had no chance to even consider going for the green in two. His wedge for an eagle stopped a few feet to the side of the hole, and a tap-in birdie gave him a 71.

Stallings finished at 9-under 279.

Jason Day (68) and Graham DeLaet of Canada (68) each made birdie on the last hole to tie for second. So did Perez, the San Diego native who grew up at Torrey Pines and whose father is the longtime starter on

the first tee at the Farmers Insurance Open. Perez missed a 10-foot birdie chance on the 17th. He closed with a 70.

"It's great and bad," Perez said about his runner-up finish. "This is the one I want to win more than anything in the world, and I came up short. ... I thought today would have been my day. I would like to be in that position again."

Spieth didn't make a birdie over the last 15 holes, and he fell back with back-to-back birdies late in the round. The 20-year-old Texan made a meaningless bogey on the last hole that only cost him a spot in the top 10. By then, his day was over. He closed with a 75.

"I just lost control of the golf ball," Spieth said.

He also revealed that he tweaked his ankle Friday and felt it kept him from getting into the right position on his back swing.

Stallings, who started the final round three shots behind, won for the third time in his career. Two of those were tournaments that Woods played, yet Woods wasn't around on Sunday either time. He missed the cut in the Greenbrier Classic and did not make the 54-hole cut at Torrey Pines.

Stallings made six birdies over his last 11 holes, along with a pair of bogeys. Most remarkable is that he managed to hit only four fairways in the final round. But one that he did was impor-

tant—the 537-yard closing hole, giving him a chance to get home in two for a birdie at worst.

He never considered laying up and trying to make birdie with a wedge in his hand.

"You don't get very many opportunities to win golf tournaments on this tour," he said. "I didn't necessarily understand the situation I was in as far as the score, but I did know I had an opportunity. ... I was playing to win."

Charley Hoffman, another San Diego native, made a hole-in-one on the third hole and closed with a 67 to tie for seventh, along with Ryo Ishikawa of Japan and Will MacKenzie, who each had a 70.

HONOLULU (AP)—Jerry Rice has fresh bragging rights on Deion Sanders nearly a decade after both players retired from the NFL.

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray caught a 20-yard touchdown pass with 41 seconds left and Carolina running back Mike Tolbert plunged into the end zone for a 2-point conversion to give Rice a 22-21 win over Sanders in the first schoolyard-style Pro Bowl on Sunday.

"They called my number the whole way," Tolbert said on the field after the game. "Philip (Rivers) told them to give it to me. My old teammate, he told them to give it to me."

Baltimore's Justin Tucker missed a 67-yard field goal on the game's final play after missing a 66-yarder earlier in the game.

The touchdown and conversion gave Rice a comeback after Philadelphia quarterback

Tolbert conversion gives Rice 22-21 Pro Bowl win

Nick Foles threw a 12-yard touchdown to Cleveland tight end Jordan Cameron with less than 5 minutes to play to give Sanders a 21-14 lead.

The touchdowns by Cameron and Murray were the only scores of the second half in a game that had eight turnovers—including six interceptions—and nine sacks.

"It was definitely sloppy. There was a lot of turnovers because of the weather," said Houston defensive end J.J. Watt, who was a captain on Sanders' team. "There was a lot of rain, so obviously that factored into it."

The game was played in consistent rain, but little wind and warm temperatures in the high 70s.

Foles was the only quarterback of six in the game to not throw an interception. He was

named offensive MVP, finishing with seven completions for 89 yards.

Philadelphia wide receiver DeSean Jackson and Carolina quarterback Cam Newton also had touchdowns for Team Sanders. New Orleans tight end Jimmy Graham and Cleveland wide receiver Josh Gordon caught touchdowns for Team Rice. Gordon led Team Rice with six catches for 66 yards, while Washington running back Alfred Morris had four catches for 69 yards.

The Pro Bowlers were split up by the NFL greats in a new draft format meant to improve the game. The picks made earlier in the week created matchups that pitted usual teammates against each

other and challenged Rice and Sanders to compare the all-stars against one another. That led to plenty of trash talk between Rice and Sanders and some bruised egos among players used to being on top of their sport.

"Great Job Goat!!!!" Sanders tweeted toward Rice after the game. "Enjoy this moment cause u know I'm hot right now."

The result Sunday was a game that appeared more competitive than in years past, with some big hits—even between teammates—and fewer shenanigans.

"It was crazy, but we had fun with it," Gordon said. "I loved it and enjoyed it."

Gordon was flipped by teammate T.J. Ward on one of the

biggest hits in the game.

"I don't think he knew what he was doing but I'll give him the benefit of a doubt on that one," Gordon said. "I'll get him back in Cleveland."

Jackson caught the game's first touchdown pass from Indianapolis quarterback Andrew Luck. Luck threw the ball 36 yards into double coverage in the end zone on a flea flicker, where Jackson wrestled it away from Titans cornerback Alterraun Verner.

Graham caught an 8-yard fade in the second quarter from teammate Drew Brees, turning around Brees' slow start. Graham dunked the ball over the crossbar in celebration, but San Diego safety Eric Weddle jokingly defended the attempt.

Newton scored on 1-yard run up the middle for a touchdown, making up for an earlier inter-

ception on a ball Cleveland cornerback Joe Haden wrestled away from Jackson.

Kansas City linebacker Derrick Johnson—who had a big hit in the first half on Chiefs teammate Jamaal Charles—was selected as the game's defensive MVP for Team Rice.

"I didn't expect it, but he's out there doing his thing," said Charles, who was knocked out of Kansas City's playoff loss to Indianapolis with a concussion. "I can't get mad at him - it's just about football and you've just got to be ready."

"If you stand back, he's going to make you look pretty bad, so I had to go out and really give it to him," Johnson said. "I would never try to hurt my teammate at all, but compete a little bit."

Johnson had nine tackles, including eight solo tackles. Carolina linebacker Luke Kuechly had 12 tackles, including 11 solo tackles.



Broncos, Seahawks hit frozen Big Apple



JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Leave it to Peyton Manning to put everything in perspective.

“The Super Bowl is a big deal,” the Broncos’ record-setting quarterback said Sunday after his team arrived in a frozen Big Apple—well, across the icy Hudson River in New Jersey, actually.

Well, yeah, it’s only the biggest sporting event in America, a quasi-national holiday. That’s not lost on the four-time NFL MVP and owner of one Super Bowl title.

“I know how hard it is to get here,” he added. “I know how much time and sacrifice our team has made in order to have this opportunity to play in this game. We were excited to get on that plane. We were excited getting off that plane, and we are looking forward to being here all week and, hopefully, playing a good game next Sunday.”

It will take more than a good game

to beat the Seahawks, of course. Seattle brings the stingiest defense in the league to the Super Bowl. It’s a juicy matchup between an unstoppable force led by Manning (55 TD passes, 606 points) and an immovable object (231 points allowed, ranked first in overall and passing defense).

And it’s exactly what the Seahawks traveled across the country for: the biggest of all challenges.

“Historically, it can’t get any tougher,” Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. “People can’t even dream to have a season (like Manning had). It’s an extraordinary challenge, and we’ll see how this matchup goes. They have to play us, too.”

Plus, both teams might have to fight through the elements in the first outdoor Super Bowl in a cold-weather site.

On Sunday, an icy wind made its way through the Meadowlands, cut across the Hudson and into frigid Manhattan. Looks like Mother Nature is taking seriously the NFL’s slogan for this Super Bowl: Best Served Cold.

“Don’t let the cold weather get you,” is Denver linebacker Wesley Woodyard’s mantra. “Once you figure out a point in your mind that you’re cold, that’s when it gets you. So you just have to block it out and be into the moment.”

For the moment, each side is dealing with the distractions that accompany reaching the NFL’s super-hyped championship game.

More media, for sure. A glaring spotlight on everything. Spending a week away from home. Practicing in another team’s facility: the Seahawks at the Giants’ complex across the parking lots from MetLife Stadium, the Broncos at the Jets’ place in Florham Park, about 30 minutes from the Meadowlands.

Both coaches, Denver’s John Fox and Seattle’s Carroll, are concerned about the outdoor practice fields being frozen or covered with snow. Neither sounded eager about working indoors the entire week.

Just another inconvenience that goes along with the Super Bowl, although the NFL said the outdoor fields will be available for practices.

“Cold, hot, snow, rain, football is challenging,” Seahawks All-Pro safety Earl Thomas said. “That’s why we’ve got to stay in it (mentally) for the whole game—the personnel, the matchups. It’s not about psyching yourself up, it’s about the opportunity. You’ve got the God-given ability and you want to show it off. It doesn’t matter where it is.”

Where it is, of course, is where every football player seeks to be in early

February. Whether the Super Bowl is played on the Meadowlands tundra, in Death Valley or on Mars, every NFL player wants to be suiting up for it.

“I think in order to be a championship football team we’ve got to be weatherproof, and I think our football team played in all different elements this year,” Fox said. “I feel comfortable with where we’re at as far as the elements, but it’s a part of the game. I think tradition-wise, it’s been a part of the league and a part of a lot of championships.”

Not one regular Seahawks player has been to this stage, giving Denver something of an edge in experience. The Broncos have four: receiver Wes Welker, tight end Jacob Tamme, cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and that quarterback named Peyton.

Manning, of course, is the only current Bronco to have won a ring, with Indianapolis in 2007. He also lost the Super Bowl in 2010 with the Colts.

On Monday, with the long travel out of the way and the introductory news conferences behind them, each team gets down to business. They can’t wait.

“I don’t believe in such a thing called distractions,” Woodyard said. “This is the moment we have got to be in. It’s what you wanted your whole life.”

WAWRINKA

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again. It remains the only major he’s hasn’t won at least two times.

“Rafa, I’m really sorry for you, I hope your back is going to be fine, you’re a really great guy, good friend and really amazing champion,” Wawrinka said as he accepted his first major trophy. “Last year I had a crazy match, I lost it. I was crying a lot after the match. But in one year a lot happened—I still don’t know if I’m dreaming or not but we’ll see tomorrow morning.”

Wawrinka lost in five sets to Novak Djokovic in the fourth round of the 2013 Australian Open, in the longest Grand Slam match of the season. Djokovic went on to win his third consecutive title at Melbourne Park, and then beat Wawrinka again in five sets in the U.S. Open semifinals.

But Wawrinka avenged those losses this time, beating Djokovic in five sets

in the quarterfinals—ending a run of 14 straight losses to the Serbian player.

Now he’ll move from No. 8 to No. 3. In doing so, he’ll surpass Federer, a 17-time Grand Slam winner who lost to Nadal in the semifinals—to become the highest-ranked Swiss player for the first time in his career.

A constant supporter of his countryman, Federer was one of the first people to call and congratulate Wawrinka after his win.

Wawrinka also broke up a sequence of wins for the Big Four—with 34 of the previous 35 majors going to either Nadal, Djokovic, Roger Federer or Andy Murray.

“Stan, you really deserve it,” Nadal said. “Luck was against me today but you really deserve it.

“Last thing that I wanted to do was retire. I hate to do that, especially in a final. Same time, is tough to see yourself during the whole year you are working for a moment like this, and arrives the moment and you feel that you are not able to play at your best.”

Nadal has had a terrible stretch with injuries at the Australian Open, and has described it as his unluckiest Grand Slam. He won the title in 2009, and lost an epic five-set final to Djokovic in 2012. But he missed the 2013 edition during a seven-month layoff with knee injuries and illness, and his quarterfinal losses in 2010 and 2011 were affected by injuries.

“It has been a very emotional two weeks—I’m sorry to finish this way,” he told the Rod Laver Arena crowd. “I tried very, very hard—this year was one of the more emotional tournaments in my career.”

A possible retirement was looming when Nadal was serving at 0-2 in the second set. He bent over at the waist to stretch his back and then grabbed his lower back with his hand and grimaced in pain. His serve immediately dipped to 141 kph (87 mph).

When Nadal took a medical timeout after falling behind a set and a break, and returned to a chorus of boos without a shirt after 7 minutes,

it seemed that an early finish was on the cards.

Wawrinka was aggravated during the time out, demanding that officials tell him why Nadal needed the break. And he came out aggressively to finish off the second set.

Nadal’s serve speed dipped even further to 125 kph (77 mph) and then 114 kph (70 mph). The support in the stadium gradually shifted as the crowd saw the Spaniard battling to stay on the court.

His service speed improved in the beginning of the third set, prompting a fan to yell advice to Wawrinka: “C’mon Stan, no sympathy!”

By the end of the set, Nadal’s serve was back up to 174 kph (108 mph) and Wawrinka’s error count was escalating.

Wawrinka composed himself after an exchange of breaks in the fourth set to serve it out in 2 hours, 21 minutes. After a muted celebration, he consoled Nadal in the courtside chairs before getting a chance to hold up and kiss his first big trophy.

FTMP

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played tomorrow. Though three more elimination games were still scheduled last night, results will no longer affect the Top 4 rankings and the Final Four pairings have been determined with Rollers 1 colliding against FTMP and Rollers 3 dueling Rollers 2.

Rollers 2, which routed FTMP in the first round 69-48, missed sweeping the latter in the elimination round after falling short in the closing minutes of the match and losing a close 33-30 halftime lead. FTMP avenged its defeat to Rollers 3 after getting crucial points from Tristan Montes and three others. Montes scored 6 straight markers in the closing minutes, while Alvin Francisco and Omengkar Kautong added one field goal apiece, and Kenneth Domingo made an insurance free throw.

Omengkar went on to lead FTMP on scoring with his 23 points, while Montes contributed 19. Francisco also finished in twin digits with his 14 points.

Mike Espinosa had 19 for Rollers 2, while Kobe Mendoza chipped in 11.

In other results, Rollers 1 and 2 defeated separate foes to seal the Top 2 spots in the seven-team field.

Rollers 1 bagged the No. 1 ranking after outclassing Rollers 4 (3-8), 60-53, while Rollers 3 whipped Dream Team, 51-18.

The top finisher led from start to finish, leaning on its balance offense to survive the 29-point explosion of Rollers 4’s Dixon Kwon.

Rollers 1 drew 18 and 13 points from William Camacho and Prince Factor, respectively, and got 9 each from Jaron Ano and Mike Arciaga to gain win No. 10.

Arciaga started and ended the first half with a triple to give Rollers 1 the lead after the opening frame, 30-22.

Factor took over in the second half, drilling 10 of his total markers, while Ano and Arciaga chipped in 7 each to counter Kwon’s hot shooting.

In the Rollers 3-Dream Team tussle, the former held the latter scoreless in the first 15 minutes of play before giving up on field goal to set up the lopsided victory.

Lily Williams made a fastbreak layup to help Dream Team avoid a shut-out in the first half, but still Rollers 3 built a commanding lead at the break, 23-2. Rollers 3 could have widened the gap further if it chose to, but coach Joe Diaz instructed his boys not to go for fastbreak plays and instead focus on their halfcourt setup.

Rollers 3 patiently worked on its offense through the second half and was gifted with the 33-point win, as Dream Team had an off night with only Kyla Ito nailing more than a field goal for the team.

First Game

Rollers 3 51 – Dancoe 14, Morales 11, Cruz 5, De Luna 5, Rios 5, Factor 2, Francisco 2, Amog 2.

Dream Team 18 – Ito 10, Castilo 12, Williams 2, Abrams 2, Alegre 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-2, 51-18.

Second Game

Rollers 1 60 – Camacho 18, Factor 13, Ano 9, Arciaga 9, Iglecias 3, Malonzo 2, Pangelinan 2, Yu 2.

Rollers 4 53 – Kwon 29, Ellama 10, Sagun 9, Espinola 3, Toves 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-22, 60-53.

Third Game

FTMP 63 – Kautong 23, Montes 19, Alcantara 14, A. Francisco 6, Domingo 1.

Rollers 2 59 – Espinosa 19, Mendoza 11, Darag 10, Fidelino 6, Capuyon 6, Subang 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-33, 62-59.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	22	21	.512	—
Brooklyn	20	22	.476	1½
New York	17	27	.386	5½
Boston	15	31	.326	8½
Philadelphia	14	30	.318	8½
Southeast Division				
Miami	32	12	.727	—
Atlanta	23	20	.535	8½
Washington	21	22	.488	10½
Charlotte	19	27	.413	14
Orlando	12	33	.267	20½
Central Division				
Indiana	34	9	.791	—
Chicago	22	21	.512	12
Detroit	17	27	.386	17½
Cleveland	16	28	.364	18½
Milwaukee	8	35	.186	26
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	33	11	.750	—
Houston	29	17	.630	5
Dallas	26	20	.565	8
Memphis	22	20	.524	10
New Orleans	18	25	.419	14½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	35	10	.778	—
Portland	33	12	.733	2
Denver	22	21	.512	12
Minnesota	21	22	.488	13
Utah	15	29	.341	19½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	31	15	.674	—
Golden State	27	18	.600	3½
Phoenix	25	18	.581	4½
L.A. Lakers	16	29	.356	14½
Sacramento	15	28	.349	14½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

CNMI

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zomo Yamasawa and Kanasta Abrams.

In the finals, which was shortened to an eight-game pro set due to time constraints and rain delay, Ishikawa and Tan walked away with an 8-1 win.

In the girls U14 singles, Ishikawa was seeded first in the nine-player field and drew a bye in the first round before defeating Guam’s Tara Usita-Lee in the upper bracket quarterfinals, 10-2. Ishikawa then topped the fourth-ranked Grace Choi in the semis, 8-2, to book a finals ticket. Before bowing to Ishikawa, Choi notched a 10-6 win over Abrams to march into the semis of the top half of the draw.

In the bottom half, the second-ranked Tan walloped Merletti, 10-1. Merletti set up a quarterfinals tiff against Tan after a 10-7 win over Smith. Next up for Tan was Miyawaki, who whipped Yamasawa, 10-1, and the former bagged an 8-3 triumph in the semis to set up a finals date against Ishikawa.

Ishikawa and Tan’s title showdown was postponed due to time constraints and will be played on Saipan on a later date as per the tournament director’s instructions.

The four CNMI players were forced to play in an indoor court to complete their doubles games and singles semis matches, as they flew back to Saipan last Sunday afternoon. The rest of the Quality Cup matches were played in outdoor courts and Sunday’s games were rained-out.

“I’d like to thank PIC for graciously providing an indoor venue for our girls U14 division matches,” Quality Cup tournament director Joe Cepeda said in a press statement sent to *Saipan Tribune* last Sunday. “The visiting players from Saipan enjoyed the tournament and were glad to have played out their remaining matches before having to head back home.”

Besides the U14 contests, this year’s Quality Cup also has competitions in the U10, U12, U16, and U18 junior divisions and adults singles and doubles.

SBA King & Queen of the Lanes Tournament Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Yho Villavicencio, right, poses with her first place trophies and prizes and Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan during the awards ceremony for the SBA Budweiser King & Queen of the Lanes Tournament at Kanoa Resort this month.



King of the Lanes Raymond Zapanta poses with his daughter and SBA president Jerry Tan after receiving his first place prizes.



Runner-up Elena Soll poses with her trophy.



Runner-up Simon Manacop smiles after getting the trophy and cash prize from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Third placer Gloria Omechelang shows her trophy.



Robert Talavera gets his fifth place prize from SBA president Jerry Tan.



SBA president Jerry Tan congratulates seventh placer Raymond Angeles.



Ramir De Leon receives his fourth place cash prize from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Ronald Batac gets his eighth place cash prize from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Third placer Alex Castro receives his prizes from SBA president Jerry Tan.



Heat win Finals
rematch, top
Spurs, 113-101

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Stallings rallies
from 3 behind to
win at Torrey

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



AP

Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka poses with his Australian Open trophy on the banks of the Yarra River following his win over Spain's Rafael Nadal on Sunday evening in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

FTMP completes semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Funky Town Monkey Pimps punched the last semis ticket in the boys division of the 2013 Sun Palace Christmas Basketball Tournament after slipping past Rollers 2, 63-59, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

FTMP secured a 6-5 record after the 4-point win and joined Rollers 1 (10-1), Rollers 3 (10-2), and Rollers 2 (7-4) in the semifinals, which will be

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Rollers 3's Quinn Amog, left, tries to get away from the defense of Dream Team's Lily Williams during their game in the Sun Palace caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Wawrinka wins Aussie Open final

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Stan Wawrinka added a win over Rafael Nadal to his list of firsts in a stunning run to his maiden Grand Slam title, extending his rival's injury-cursed run at the Australian Open with a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 upset in Sunday's final.

The 28-year-old Wawrinka had never taken a set off Nadal in 12 previous meetings, but attacked from the start against the 13-time major winner and regained his nerve after dropping the third set against the injured Spaniard.

Nadal appeared to be on the verge of retiring in the second

set, when he hurt his back and needed a medical time out, but he refused to quit.

"It's really not the way you want to win a tennis match, but in a Grand Slam final I'll take it," said Wawrinka, the first man in 21 years to beat the No. 1 and

No. 2 ranked players en route to a Grand Slam title.

Nadal was a hot favorite to win at Melbourne Park and become the first man to win each of the four Grand Slam tournaments twice in the Open era—instead, his injury curse struck



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TAN



ISHIKAWA

CNMI jr. players win in Quality Cup 2014

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four CNMI players dominated the girls U14 competition in last weekend's Quality Cup Tennis Tournament 2014 played at the Pacific Islands Club indoor tennis courts in Guam.

Tania Tan and Julia Ishika-

wa won the doubles championships against fellow CNMI bets Grace Choi and Malika Miyawaki and the eventual doubles winners also advanced to the finals of the U14 singles.

The top-seeded Tan and Ishikawa made it to the cham-

pionship round after a 10-2 victory over Guam's Allyssa Merletti and Victoria Smith last

Sunday morning. Choi and Miyawaki then arranged an all-CNMI finale after a similar 10-2 triumph over Guam's No-

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